NONROUTINE REPORT #75-03

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY SUBSIDIARY OF GENERAL PUBLIC UTILITIES CORPORATION

POST OFFICE BOX 480 MIDDLETOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 17057 TELEPHONE 717-944-4041

June 27, 1975

POOR ORIGINAL

Mr. J. P. O'Reilly
Directorate of Regulatory Operations
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pa. 19406

Operating License DPR-50
Docket 50-289

Subject: Unplanned release of radioactive material at TMI through the plant vent from the Auxiliary Building.

Dear Mr. O'Reilly,

This telegram is to confirm the conversation between Bert Davis (Region I - NRC), and J. G. Herbein (Manager, Generation Operations - Nuclear) at 1230 hours 27 June, 1975.

On 26 June starting at 0227, inadvertent sporadic noble gas releases occurred over a fourteen (14) hour period. The total time of the releases was seven (7) hours and six (6) minutes.

Due to the fact that the level of the activity released was so low, an alert or alarm condition did not occur on the Radiation Monitoring System. The releases were not detected until the routine shift check of the Radiation Monitoring System Strip Chart Recorders was performed. Upon investigation it was determined that the releases occurred following makeup to the makeup tank or reactor coolant bleed tanks. It is postulated that the releases occurred from one of the evaporators which were, at the time of the release, shutdown and valved into the radioactive gas vent header. The addition of water to the tanks caused a pressure surge which was subsequently transmitted to the shutdown evaporators which, in turn, leaked radioactive gas to the Auxiliary Building Ventilation Exhaust System. After isolation of the evaporators from the vent header, no releases occurred during similar operations.

Analysis of RM-A8 recorder charts and local Auxiliary Building samples indicated the radioactive material released was predominantly Xe^{133}.

The maximum instantaneous noble gas release rate that occurred during this period was $1.16 \times 10^{+3}$ M³/sec., which is below the Technical Specification limit of 1.2×10^{5} M³/sec. The maximum average release rate during this period was $6.72 \times 10^{+2}$ M³/sec. with a total release of 3.965 curies.

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MR. J. P. O'Reilly 2.0 May 27, 1975

An investigation will be conducted to determine the exact location of the gas release point from the evaporators.

The necessary corrective action will be taken following the location of the gas release point.

Very truly yours,

J. J. Colitz

J. J. Colitz
Unit #1 Superintendent

JJC:jam

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