

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

April 19, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-86

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Metropolitan Edison Company
Three Mile Island - Unit 1 (DN 50-289)
Middletown, Pennsylvania

Subject: IN SERVICE INSPECTION

The news media (Washington Post and local Harrisburg paper) carried an article on April 18, 1979 written by a Los Angeles Times correspondent detailing irregularities in inspection records related to nondestructive examinations performed on welds and other components in Unit 1. Preliminary review of licensee records indicates some validity to the article although it appears to contain several inconsistencies. A Region I inspector is at the site looking into this matter.

Media interest is expected because of interest in TMI. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. A press release is not planned by the licensee or by the NRC.

NRC, Region I, (Philadelphia) received notification of this occurrence by a telephone call from IE:HQ at 8:30 a.m. on April 18, 1979.

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Distribution: Transmitted H St 2:47

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IE (TMI) Site 2:58 (Provide copy to Public Affairs Office)

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