

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

July 13, 1979

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-79-243

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events 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 2
Middletown, Pennsylvania, Docket No. 50-320

SUBJECT: TWO ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL PLANT EMPLOYEE OVEREXPOSURES RESULTING
FROM THE THREE MILE ISLAND ACCIDENT

The on-going Office of Inspection and Enforcement investigation of the March 28, 1979 accident at Three Mile Island has identified two additional potential radiation exposures exceeding NRC limits during the first calendar quarter of 1979. The exposures occurred on March 29, 1979 when the employees collected and analyzed a Unit 2 primary water sample.

The following dose assessments based upon available data, interviews, and reconstruction of events were made by the NRC:

SUMMARY OF DOSE ASSESSMENTS

<u>Individual</u>	<u>Affected Area</u>	<u>Range of Calculated Doses (REM)</u>	<u>NRC Calendar Quarter Limit (REM)</u>
A	Hand & Forearm	44-54	18.75
B	Fingers	50-147	18.75
	Small area on Skin of head	6-13	7.5

The licensee has been informed of the results of these dose assessments and has been requested to review exposures of these and other individuals who may have received exposures in excess of NRC limits subsequent to the period within the scope of the IE investigation. The licensee has such a review in progress.

To date, a total of four employees appear to have received radiation exposures in excess of NRC limits during the first calendar quarter of 1979, which includes the first few days of the accident. Previously the licensee submitted to the NRC on May 1, 1979 whole body overexposure reports for three individuals, including individual B. These reports did not include, however, the extremity or skin exposures described in this preliminary notification for individuals A and B.

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The IE/TMI resident inspection office is doing additional dose assessments beyond the period of the IE investigation. In this connection, calculations indicate that individual B may also have received an exposure of between 4 and 19 Rem to the same area of skin of his head during the second calendar quarter of 1979. The exposure resulted from skin contamination which was deposited during the early part of the accident and was not removed for a period of time. The licensee restricted individual B from further occupational exposure during the second quarter of 1979.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed of the exposures.

A press release is planned by the NRC.

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