

TROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY SUBSIDIARY OF GENERAL PUBLIC UTILITIES CORPORATION

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

September 5, 1975

10 Day
Nonroutine Report No. 75-05

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 Three Mile Island
through the Plant Vent from the Auxiliary Building.

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

This telegram is to confirm the conversation between Mr. Lee Spessard (Region I-NRC), and J.J. Colitz (TMI Unit 1 Superintendent) at 1400 hours 5 September 1975.

On 4 September 1975 between 1530 and 1800, an inadvertent release of radioactive material occurred over a period of approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes.

The inadvertent radioactive material release occurred due to a drain pot drain valve (WDG-V14) associated with the Waste Gas System Delay Tank being left in the open position following the routine draining of the drain pot. All gas leakage, as a result of the open drain valve, was routed directly to the Auxiliary Building sump and then released to the atmosphere via the Auxiliary Building Ventilation System. Analysis of the radiation effluent monitor (RM-A8) recorder charts and local Auxiliary Building samples indicated the radioactive material released was predominately ^{133}Xe (99%), and that the instantaneous noble gas release rate was $4.3 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^3/\text{Sec}$. which is below the technical specification limit of $1.2 \times 10^5 \text{ M}^3/\text{Sec}$. The average release rate over the 2 hour and 30 minute period of this release was $2.14 \times 10^3 \text{ M}^3/\text{Sec}$. with a total release of noble gas of 5.75 curies.

This incident may have caused the release of radioactive materials in concentration reportable under paragraph 20.403 (b) (2) of 10 CFR 20.

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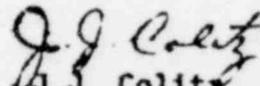
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Following RMS indication that an unplanned release was in progress, an immediate investigation to determine the source was initiated. The investigation revealed that WDG-V14 was open. WDG-V14 was immediately closed and the unplanned radioactive release was terminated.

Appropriate corrective action will be instituted following review of the existing procedural steps relating to Waste Gas Delay Tank - Drain Tank - operation.

Very truly yours,


J.J. Colitz
Unit 1 Superintendent

JJC/dmn