

Subject: Metropolitan Edison Company

Facility: Three Mile Island Units 1 and 2

License Nos.: CPPR-40 and CPPR-66

Title: Flood Damage to Equipment, Materials, and Records at  
Construction Site

Prepared By:

S. A. Folsom  
S. A. Folsom, Reactor Inspector

6/23/72  
Date

A. Date and Manner AEC Was Informed:

The assigned inspector was at the construction site during the afternoon of June 21, and the morning of June 22, as the river approached flood stage. The site QA Engineer, Mr. M. Stromberg, provided the limited information available at the time. On June 23, 1972, Mr. R. Heward, Project Manager for Met Ed, provided the later information.

B. Description of Particular Event or Circumstance

The Susquehanna River, which surrounds the Three Mile Island construction site, crested at flood stage on June 23, 1972, and rains were continuing. One of the two access bridges to the site was flooded and the other appeared to be nearing an unsafe condition. Telephone communication to the site offices on June 22-23, was practically nonexistent and cut-off of electrical power to the site was imminent according to the Harrisburg radio station.

On June 22, the roads on the site were covered with water and outside pits were flooded. Few of the construction men were on the island due to a combination of factors, including inaccessibility to the general area, and participation in a Norristown, Pennsylvania mass demonstration against a non-union construction job.

The flood levels are reported to exceed, by two feet, the historic (1936) river levels mentioned in the PSAR. Considerable damage to installed and uninstalled equipment, and materials and records is expected.

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As of 1:00 pm on June 23, unofficial reports from the job site indicated that there is water in the decay heat vault, and one of the reactor building spray pump motors is flooded. The reactor building is not flooded. There is electric power available at the site and four people are on the island providing necessary surveillance.

C. Action by Licensee:

Some effort was underway on June 22 by those present from the QA group to safeguard vital records, such as radiographs. It appeared that these efforts might be effective, but that damage to the plant materials and equipment, for example, electrical motors, could not be prevented because of the magnitude of the job.

On June 23 at 2:00 pm, the site could not be reached by telephone.

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