



METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY SUBSIDIARY OF GENERAL PUBLIC UTILITIES CORPORATION

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

AUGUST 21, 1975

10 Day 5  
NONROUTINE REPORT 974-09

Mr. J. P. O'Reilly  
Directorate of Regulatory Operations  
Region 1  
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 1-MRC), and J. J. Colitz, TMI Unit 1 Superintendent, at 1430  
hours, 21 August 1975.

On August 21, 1975 between 0053 and 0231 an inadvertent release of radio-  
active material occurred over a period of approximately 1 hour and 37  
minutes.

The inadvertent radioactive material release occurred due to the loss  
of the Reclaimed Boric Acid Tank "B" Loop Seal. Loss of the Reclaimed  
Loop Seal occurred when a leak developed at a fitting in the piping  
associated with the loop seal sight glass.

Analysis of the radiation effluent monitor (RM-A3) recorder charts  
and local auxiliary building samples indicated the radioactive material  
released was predominately  $^{133}\text{Xe}$  (100%), and that the instantaneous  
noble gas release rate was  $1.55 \text{ E } 4 \text{ M}^3/\text{Sec}$ , which is below the  
technical specification limit of  $1.2 \times 10^5 \text{ M}^3/\text{Sec}$ . The average release  
rate over the 1 hour and 37 minute period of this release was  
 $4.82 \text{ E } 3 \text{ M}^3/\text{Sec}$ , with a total release of noble gas of 8.51 curies.

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This incident caused the release of radioactive materials in concentrations reportable under paragraph 20.403 (b) (2) of 10CFR20.

The twenty-four (24) hour average release rate was  $4.17 \times 10^{-4}$   $\mu\text{Ci}/\text{cc}$ . This exceeded, by greater than 500 times, the MPC for  $^{133}\text{Xe}$  of  $3 \times 10^{-7}$   $\mu\text{Ci}/\text{cc}$ .

Corrective action is in progress to repair the leaking fitting.

Very truly yours,

*J. J. Colitz*  
J. J. Colitz

Unit 1 Superintendent  
Three Mile Island Nuclear Station

JJC:sh

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