July 8, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-80-38F

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 NRC staff on this date.

Facility: Metropolitan Edison Company
Three Mile Island, Unit 2
Middletown, Pennsylvania
Docket Number 50-320

Subject: REACTOR BUILDING PURGE STATUS

Purging of the reactor building atmosphere utilizing the modified hydrogen control (MHC) system continued at various system flow rates based on meteorological condition. Momentary shutdowns also occurred due to stack monitor filter changeouts. In addition, at approximately 6:20 a.m. the system was shutdown due to a high alarm on the purge system monitor (HP-R-229) noble gas channel. The reason for this alarm is under review.

Maximum purge system flow rate was approximately 540 cfm, while stack flow rate averaged approximately 105,000 cfm in the past 24 hours. Total calculated radioactivity released as of 7:00 a.m. was 29,877 Ci based on stack flow rate and measured stack concentration. Remaining concentration in the reactor building based on the last building sample was analyzed at 0.26 uCi/cc (14,896 Ci, total).

The multi-channel analyzer continues to be in operation and indicates no particulate activity being emitted.

Utilization of the modified reactor building purge system (MPS) for a faster purge rate is to be operational later today.

Additional reports on reactor building purging will be updated on a daily basis during the initial stages of purging. The NRC Region 1 mobile laboratory will continue to be used to verify the licensee's analytical results.

Media interest has occurred because of public sensitivity to this evolution and TMI related events. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has monitored these events. NRC has responded to inquiries. The NRC TMI Program Office staff has monitored events as they occur on a 24 hour basis.

This information is current as of 9:00 a.m.

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