

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

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March 21, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO 1M1-80-17A

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received with 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: INCRSLASLD AUXILIARY BUILDING AIR PARTICULATE ACTIVITY UPDATE

About 3:15 A.M., on March 20, 1980, several local air particulate monitors located in the auxiliary building alarmed. The highest reading low volume air sample indicated 1.8×10^{-7} uCi/cc, versus the normal reading about 1×10^{-10} uCi/cc. This sample was taken in an area near the "B" Makeup Pump cubicle, where a Makeup System leak was suspected. Seal injection and letdown was isolated, and reactor coolant system pressure was decreased to reduce leakage. At about 9:30 A.M. the airborne activity in the general area in the auxiliary building was restored to normal, indicating a successful isolation of the suspected leak.

On March 20, 1980, at approximately 7:42 P.M. the letdown system flow was restored and at 7:56 P.M. seal injection was reinitiated to determine source of leakage. A local air particulate monitor alarmed with resultant airborne activity increasing to approximately 10^{-7} uCi/cc. The letdown system and seal injection were subsequently isolated again at 8:50 P.M. without a determination of source of the leakage.

The Makeup System is in recirculation operation. RCS pressure is being maintained by the Standby Pressure Control System.

During these events the effluent monitors did not indicate a release. The leakage source is still under review by the licensee and NRC.

At the present time, the general auxiliary building airborne levels indicate concentrations of 10^{-10} to 10^{-8} uCi/cc with a maximum concentration of 1.2×10^{-8} uCi/cc at the Makeup Pump cubicle area.

Media interest occurred because offsite notification was made by the licensee. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was informed. A press release was made by the licensee but the NRC does not plan one at this time.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and the information is current as of 10:30 A.M.

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