

January 13, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-81-01

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: INDICATION OF CESIUM-137 IN ONSITE WELLS

A routine report on ground water monitoring program was submitted by the licensee and reviewed by the NRC on January 5, 1981. The NRC TMI Program Office staff noted, through review of the licensee's data, that water samples taken from well No. 2 on October 1, 1980, contained trace quantities of Cesium-137 (Cs-137) (34 ± 6.3 pCi/l) and Cs-134 (12.8 ± 5.5 pCi/l). Well No. 2 is an onsite well which is located a few yards east of the borated water storage tank (BWST) (see attached diagram). Subsequent water samples taken by the licensee on October 8, 15, and November 5, 1980, indicated Cs-137 concentrations at less than lower limit of detection (LLD). On January 7, 1981, additional water samples were collected from well No. 2 and independently analyzed for gamma emitters, by NRC and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The NRC analytical results indicated that Cs-137 concentration in the sample was less than LLD (< 19 pCi/l). The EPA analytical results of well No. 2 water sample indicated Cs-137 concentration of 20 ± 4 pCi/l. Subsequent analysis performed by the licensee of free standing water taken from a hole in the ground near the BWST on January 12, 1981, indicated Cs-134 and Cs-137 concentrations of $2.2 \times 10^{-7} \pm 8.5 \times 10^{-8}$ uCi/ml and $8.7 \times 10^{-7} \pm 1.2 \times 10^{-7}$ uCi/ml, respectively.

A meeting will be held on January 15, 1981, between the NRC TMI Program Office and the licensee to discuss followup action on the reported cesium levels. Licensee investigation into this event is planned.

Media interest is expected because of public interest in matters related to TMI. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. Neither the NRC nor the licensee have made plans to issue a press release.

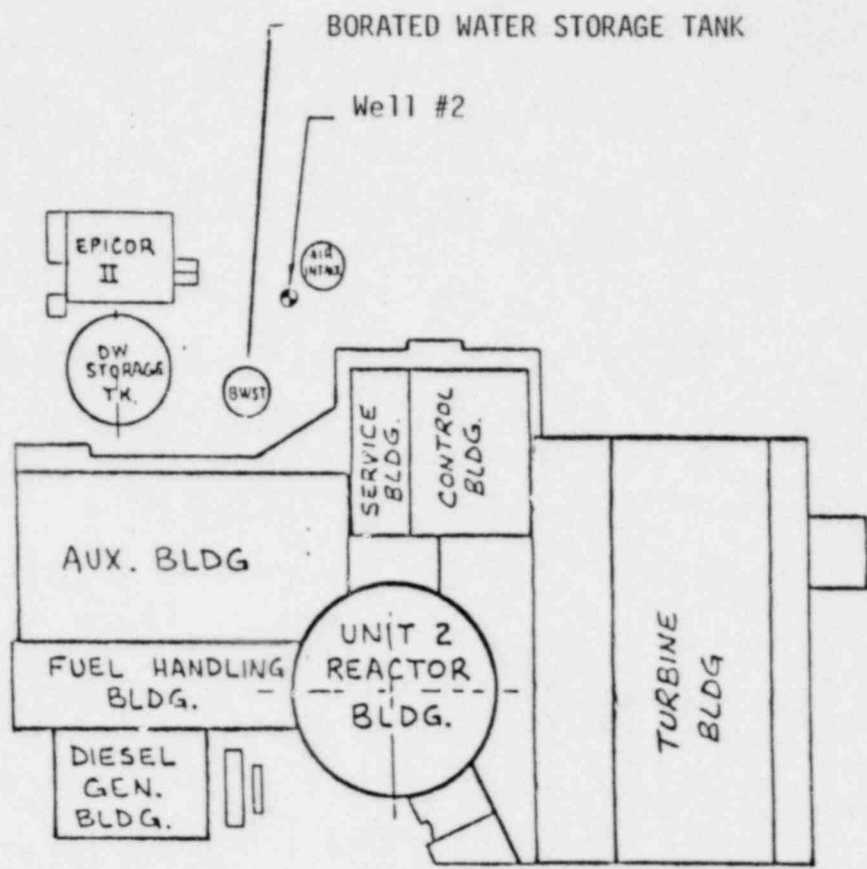
This preliminary notification is issued for information only. The onsite NRC staff will continue investigating the slight Cesium contamination levels in the onsite wells and possible causes and sources of this contamination.

The NRC TMI Program Office received notification of this event through a routine licensee report dated December 24, 1980, and submitted to the NRC on January 5, 1981. A 10 CFR 50.72 report was evaluated as not required for this event.

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LOCATION OF TMI MONITORING WELL #2



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