

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-TMI-82-011

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by NRC staff on this date.

Facility: GPU Nuclear Corporation
Three Mile Island, Unit 1
Docket No. 50-289

Licensee Emergency Classification:
X Not Applicable



Subject: ONCE THROUGH STEAM GENERATOR TUBE DEGRADATION

The licensee decided to reseal virtually all of the 31,000 tubes in both Once Through Steam Generators. The additional work will be performed because further testing has indicated that defects were found with special test instruments specifically designed and developed for examining the very ends of tubes. Not all 31,000 tubes show indications of damage at the top, but the licensee feels it will be more efficient to reseal most of them, whether or not defects were indicated in the tests. A total of 500 to 700 tubes in the two generators are likely to be plugged and taken out of service.

The repair method involves the use of controlled explosive charges to expand the tubes. The licensee reports that the technique was previously used both in newly constructed heat exchangers and tube repairs in the utility industry (since late 1960's). The length of the tubes to be expanded will be the upper 10 inches of the tube in the upper tube sheet area which will extend several inches below the area affected by corrosion.

The licensee reports that this decision is not expected to have a substantial impact on the original \$25 million cost estimate for repair of the TMI-1 steam generators. The tube repairs are not expected to begin until mid-summer, after their application to the TMI-1 steam generators has been thoroughly tested and qualified for use.

Media interest occurred because the licensee issued a press-release. NRC does not plan a press release. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was informed.

This preliminary notification is issued for information only and the NRC plans to continue monitoring events as they occur.

NRC site staff received notification of this occurrence from the licensee Communications Division at 4:30 PM, May 4, 1982, and this information was current as of 9:30 AM, May 5, 1982.

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Distribution:

H. St. <u>10:53</u>	MNBB <u>11:07</u>	Phillips <u>11:04</u>	E/W <u>11:00</u>	Willste <u>11:10</u>	Air Rights <u>11:15</u>
Chairman Palladino	EDO	NRR	IE	NMSS	ST
Comm. Gilinsky	PA		OIA	RES	B. Snyder
Comm. Ahearne	MPA		AEGD		
Comm. Roberts	ELD			INPO <u>11:05</u>	MAIL:
SECY				NSAC <u>11:15</u>	DCS Processing
ACRS	R:I <u>10:40</u>	R:II <u>11:20</u>	R:III <u>12:00</u>		ADM:DMB
CA	R:IV <u>12:40</u>	R:V <u>1:00</u>			OELD:

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Certified By Lennie M. Prough
5/5/82

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