

*File
I&E Inspection*

MEMORANDUM FOR: File 50-320
THRU: G. H. Smith, Chief, FFMSB
FROM: R. L. Nimitz, Radiation Specialist, RSS
SUBJECT: REVIEW OF NOBLE GAS RELEASE AS A RESULT OF REACTOR BUILDING
SAMPLE PURGE ON FEBRUARY 12, 1980

While touring the Unit 2 facility on the evening of February 12, 1980, I noted a small increase in AM-5 (Aux Vent Noble Gas) count rate. I noted this rise at @2130. In an effort to identify the source of the rise, I approached Carl Guthrie, Unit 2 Shift Supervisor/Foreman to question him on same. My discussions with Guthrie indicated the following:

1. The shift was aware of the increase and had been monitoring (visually) its progress and rise periodically.
2. The increase observed was consistent with the last 3 or 4 rises noted during sample purges.
3. The previous rises to ~ 120-140 cpm presented no problem procedurally or radiologically.
4. A recent procedural change had increased purge time for particulate samples from 1 hour to 12 hours and had been used the last 1 or 2 sample purges.
5. Reactor Building Air Samples are pulled once per week (every Wednesday).

As a result of my discussions with Guthrie, I did not anticipate any problems from this release. Specifically since this sample purging had been going on for several weeks and the shift was aware of the current purge and appeared to be tracking same.

Upon returning to the field office, I performed release rate calculations and compared same to the Technical Specifications for gaseous releases. Based on my calculations it appeared the licensee was within limits (~ 0.1% of limits). At @2300 I placed a call to the lead radiation specialist and informed him of my findings. I indicated that radiologically the release posed no problems however the release rate was @ 4 mCi/min (KR 85) as compared to @ 1 mCi/min for the release that occurred the previous day as a result of the local emergency.

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PDR

FFMS
Nimitz:pp
2/22/80 *RLN*

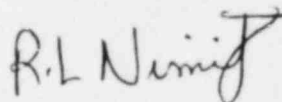
I informed the lead specialist that this release may cause some news media interest and as a result appropriate notifications should be made. Additionally I indicated we should look at the procedure revision to ensure it was properly handled via administrative procedures. The lead specialist acknowledged same and indicated I should make the necessary notifications as per NRC TMI/Deputy Director memorandum to Recovery Staff dated October 5, 1979. As a result I notified the Inspection Section Chief of the above. I turned over the above information to the first shift relief.

The following day, Wednesday, February 13, 1980, I arrived on site at @ 1330 to follow up the procedure change and review the release sequence of events to determine if some other method could be used that would not result in releases or at least minimize same.

I discussed the sample procedure with the contractor chemist involved and reviewed his procedure to determine if the necessary administrative and procedural requirements had been followed. It was at this time that I determined that a procedure change had been put through on this procedure covering increase of sample volume and sample purge time however the change had not been approved, apparently because the contractor chemist was not familiar with the licensee's procedure change procedures.

I brought this to the attention of the Unit 2 Reactor Supervisor, B. Smith. Smith contacted the contractor chemist and determined that this procedure had been used for the last 2 or 3 sample purges and had not been approved for the extended sample volume or sample purge time. As a result, the procedure was temporarily changed via a TCN. Additionally, as a result of the continual release of radiogas during sample purging, a new sample arrangement is to be installed. This will reduce piping from ~ 400 feet to less than 20 feet (as indicated in licensee evaluation accompanying the work request).

It should be noted that as a result of the above, steps have been taken to eliminate radiogas release during sample purging. Additionally, discussions indicated the licensee is currently releasing ~ 70-80 curies/month from other sources as compared to the 3-4 curies/month which nominally is released during reactor building sampling. The licensee also plans to take steps to eliminate problems relating to procedure approval distribution.



R. L. Nimitz
Radiation Specialist

cc:
M. Shanbaky
T. Fasano

METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY

Subsidiary of General Public Utilities Corporation

Subject NRC INSPECTION 80-06 --
ENTRANCE INTERVIEW

Location TMI Nuclear Station

Date March 5, 1980

To Distribution

ATTENDEES: G. J. Troffer
R. J. Toole
T. M. Hawkins
M. R. Shaffer

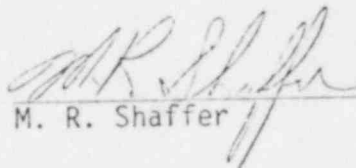
D. Haverkamp
L. Gage
R. S. Harbin

The subject inspection is scheduled during the week of March 3, 1980. The areas to be reviewed and inspector are as follows:

QA Program -- Auditing efforts on engineering designs, procurement of subcontractors	-- Gage
RM/LM's associated with instrumentation modifications	-- Paolino
ISI Program	-- Sanders
Tendon Surveillance, H ₂ Recombiner	-- Varela
3/8/80 Fire Drill Arrangements	-- Koltay

A formal exit for Inspection 80-04 is scheduled for March 7, 1980 at 1100 in the NRC Trailer 1. Among the items to be discussed will be the ECM packages and the QC interface problems associated with them.

Mr. Lee Bittenhausen will be on site later in March and will assume the duties of the Startup and Test Review Inspection for the NRC.


M. R. Shaffer

MRS/jl

cc: Attendees
G. P. Miller
J. G. Herbein
J. J. Colitz
M. J. Ross
N. C. Kazanas
File 350.2

bcc: Collins
Fasano
Gage
Bittenhausen
Keimig