

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-85-95

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 the Region I staff on this date.

Facility: GPU Nuclear Corporation	Licensee Emergency Classification:
Three Mile Island, Unit 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notification of Unusual Event
Docket Number 50-289	<input type="checkbox"/> Alert
	<input type="checkbox"/> Site Area Emergency
	<input type="checkbox"/> General Emergency
	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable

Subject: SEAL FAILURE ON REACTOR COOLANT SYSTEM MAKEUP PUMP 1A

At 1:26 a.m., makeup pump 1A was started to supply normal makeup water to the reactor coolant system while realigning electrical power to makeup pump 1B. At 1:31 a.m. an auxiliary operator reported slight leakage of the mechanical seals on makeup pump 1A and an increase in radiation activity level in the makeup pump cubicle. At 1:35 a.m. the auxiliary building radiation monitor RM-A6 gas and particulate channels reached the alert level. At approximately 1:38 a.m. the mechanical seal on makeup pump 1A failed and was spraying water on to the walls of the cubicle. The plant operators restarted makeup pump 1B and secured makeup pump 1A. Approximately 300 gallons of water were spilled on the floor. At 1:42 a.m. the combined fuel and auxiliary vent radiation monitor RM-A8 gas channel reached the alert level. Based on both RM-A6 and RM-A8 in an alert status, the shift supervisor declared an unusual event at 1:50 a.m.

The shift supervisor directed that makeup pump 1A be isolated and drained. Station health physics personnel began to clean up the room.

Both radiation monitors immediately began to decrease and RM-A8 alarm cleared at 2:00 a.m. and RM-A6 alarm cleared at 2:27 a.m. The licensee decided not to terminate the unusual event condition since the draining of the pump had the potential for additional radioactive releases. At 4:00 a.m. makeup pump 1A had been drained and the unusual event was terminated at 4:20 a.m.

It now appears that nine personnel were slightly contaminated and the highest indicated radiation exposure was 15 millirem as determined by self-reading pocket dosimetry. The licensee estimated approximately 46 curies were released from the plant due to the event. The plant continued operation at 88% of rated power throughout the event.

The licensee has issued a press release on this matter. The NRC was notified of the event at 2:20 a.m. and this preliminary notification is issued for information only. The TMI-1 Restart Staff will follow licensee corrective actions.

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