

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-88-96

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
Three Mile Island, Unit 1
Docket Numbers 50-289

Licensee Emergency Classification:
 Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

Subject: SHUTDOWN IN EXCESS OF 48 HOURS

On Saturday, September 17, 1988, the licensee decided to shut down TMI-1 to troubleshoot and/or repair the cause of high flow in the No. 1 seal leak-off line for the "D" reactor coolant pump (RCP). On September 15, 1988, the "D" RCP No. 1 seal leak-off started to increase from normal readings (2-4 gpm) up to 4-5 gpm. By Saturday, that flow was 6-8 gpm. The licensee suspected a problem with the No. 1 seal itself (Westinghouse RCP's have a three seal arrangement to form the RCS Pressure boundary). The vendor (Westinghouse) recommended shutdown for repairs. The power decrease started at 3:25 p.m. on Saturday.

The licensee had replaced this seal package on all four RCP's during the last refueling outage, which ended about five weeks ago. The other three RCP's had normal readings for the No. 1 seal leak-off. The unidentified Reactor Coolant System (RCS) Leak rate remained significantly less than 1 gpm.

Media interest is expected.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed.

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