

Date: July 10, 1989

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-89-56

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 based on all that is known by the Region I staff on this date.

## Facility:

GPU Nuclear Corporation  
Three Mile Island, Unit 2  
Docket Number 50-320

## Licensee Emergency Classification:

\_\_\_\_ Notification of Unusual Event  
\_\_\_\_ Alert  
\_\_\_\_ Site Area Emergency  
\_\_\_\_ General Emergency  
☒ Not Applicable

Subject: DISCOVERY OF REACTOR VESSEL LOWER HEAD CRACKS

The licensee recently completed defueling a major portion of the lower head region. Visual examination of several incore guide tubes revealed lower head cracks that propagated from two of the guide tube to vessel welds. The two guide tubes, E-7 and G-6, were substantially damaged by the flow of molten fuel during the accident. At present, approximately 1" of the original 12" tubes remains. The crack at location E-7 is the more visible and is approximately 4-5 inches long and approximately 1/4" to 1/2" wide. Crack depth is unknown at this time. The licensee is presently investigating methods of determining the actual size of these cracks, along with additional cleanup of the area. The resident inspectors are following the licensee's investigation.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed.

Media interest is expected. This PN is issued for information only and is current as of 1:00 p.m., July 10, 1989.

CONTACT: F. Young  
(717) 948-1167

C. Cowgill *MC*  
(215) 337-5128 *for*

## DISTRIBUTION:

OWFN  
Chairman Carr  
Comm. Roberts  
Comm. Rogers  
Comm. Curtiss

MNBB  
AEOD  
ARM  
OGC

H-St.  
ACRS  
PDR

NL  
RES

Mail: ADM:DMB  
DOT:Trans only

NRC Ops Ctr \_\_\_\_\_

INPO----  
NSAC----

SECY NMSS  
CA NRR  
OGC OIA  
GPA OI  
PA SLITP  
EDO OE

Regional Offices \_\_\_\_\_

RI Resident Office \_\_\_\_\_

Licensee: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Reactor Licensees)

8907170146 890710  
PDR I&E  
PNO-I-89-056 PDC

Region I Form 83  
(Rev. April 1988)

*ECW*

*DM*

*C*

*D*

PAO  
has  
copy

*for*  
*MM*

7/10

6/1  
3-6  
E-30