



METROPOLITAN EDISON COMPANY SUBSIDIARY OF GENERAL PUBLIC UTILITIES CORPORATION

367 OFFICE BOX 480 MIDDLETOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 17057

TELEPHONE 717-844-4041

May 25, 1975

POOR ORIGINAL

Mr. J. P. O'Reilly, Director
Directorate of Regulatory
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pa. 19406

Operating License DPR-50
Docket 50-209

Subject: Unplanned release of radioactive material at TMI through the plant vent from the Auxiliary Building.

Dear Mr. O'Reilly,

This telegram is to confirm the conversation between Lee Spessard (Region I - NRC), and J.J. Colitz (TMI - Unit #1 Superintendent) at 1345 hours 25 May, 1975.

On 24 May between 1317 and 1713 inadvertent releases of radioactive material occurred for periods of one (1) hour and twenty-nine (29) minutes and nineteen (19) minutes respectively.

The first release (1 hour and 29 minutes) occurred from the Miscellaneous Waste Evaporator which was at the time of release, shutdown and valved in to the radioactive gas vent header. It is presently postulated that at the time of release a pressure surge occurred in the vent header due to make up tank venting. This pressure surge was subsequently transmitted to the shutdown Miscellaneous Waste Evaporator which in turn leaked radioactive gas to the Auxiliary Building Ventilation Exhaust System.

Analysis of RM-A3 recorder charts and local Auxiliary Building samples indicated the radioactive material released was predominantly Xe^{133} (95%), and that the instantaneous noble gas release rate was 2.59×10^4 MB/sec., which is below the Technical Specification Limit of 1.2×10^5 MB/sec. The average release rate over the one (1) hour and twenty-nine (29) minute period of this release was 7.02×10^3 MB/sec. with a total release of 10.66 curies.

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Mr. J. P. O'Reilly, Director

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May 25, 1975

This incident caused the release of radioactive materials in concentrations reportable under paragraph 20.403 (b) (2) of 10 CFR 20.

The twenty-four (24) hour average release rate was 2.42×10^{-4} $\mu\text{Ci/cc}$. This exceeded, by greater than 500 times, the weighted MPC of 2.893×10^{-7} $\mu\text{Ci/cc}$.

While attempting to determine the source of the leakage, a second release occurred between 1554 and 1713.

Analysis of RM-43 recorder charts indicated that the instantaneous noble gas release rate was 2.357×10^3 RP/sec , which is below the Technical Specification limit of 1.2×10^3 RP/sec . The average release rate over the nineteen (19) minute period of this release was 1.474×10^3 RP/sec , with a total release of .504 curies.

An investigation will be conducted to determine the exact location of the gas release point from the Miscellaneous Waste Evaporator.

Necessary corrective action will be taken following the location of the gas release point from the Miscellaneous Waste Evaporator.

Very truly yours,

J. J. Colitz for J. G. Herbein
J. G. Herbein
Station Superintendent

JGJ:sm

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