

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PN1-97-018

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:  
Three Mile Island  
GPU Nuclear Corporation  
Post Office Box 480  
Middletown, PA 17057-0480

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

Docket No.: 50-289  
License No.: DRP-50  
Event Location Code: POW

SUBJECT: PROTEST RELATED TO THE TMI UNIT TWO ACCIDENT

On March 28, 1997, the 18th anniversary of the TMI Unit 2 accident, six protesters arrived at the Three Mile Island front gate at approximately 3:00 A.M. in an attempt to block the normal entrance lane into the plant. The protesters walked in a circle, outside of the company property, blocking the plant entrance lane. With the exception of the personnel safety hazard, the protest was peaceful. Plant workers were able to drive around the group and enter the plant gate. The Security Manager, site investigator and four extra site security officers were at the front gate to monitor the situation. As an added protection, the heavy duty steel gate was closed to prevent an intruder from crossing the bridge onto the island. The Pennsylvania State Police were also on site in case the protesters entered GPU property.

At 6:10 A.M. the six protesters blocking the plant entrance were warned that they were blocking the highway and causing a public endangerment. The State Police arrested three protesters. The other three protestors left the area shortly thereafter, without a disturbance. By approximately 6:30 A.M., the plant access was unrestricted and all protesters had left the area.

GPU notified NRC headquarters to inform them of the event.

The Pennsylvania State Police plan to issue a press release about the issue.

Presently, GPU Nuclear does not intend to issue a press release.

The contents of this PN have been communicated to the State of Pennsylvania.

Region I is prepared to respond to media inquiries. This information is correct as of 9:00 a.m., March 28, 1997.

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 (Rev. August 1996)