

Data 7 of 3 2 *1. D. Doan 7/5*

PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC COMPANY

Report to the Director of Regulation
by the Director of Compliance

2. File
Engel 50-171

The following information regarding a fire at the Peach Bottom reactor was received from the Division of Compliance reactor inspector who was at the site on February 3, 1965, while the fire was in progress.

The fire started about noon on Wednesday inside the containment vessel in an area where a number of electrical and instrumentation cables are located. It is thought that the fire was ignited by a spark from welding that was being done above that area. Initial attempts to put out the fire with hand CO₂ extinguishers were unsuccessful and dense, black smoke, apparently produced from burning electrical insulation, forced evacuation of personnel from the containment vessel. The vessel was closed and subsequently inert gas was introduced into the vessel. This was provided by a nitrogen generator, which is a part of the plant system, and by several tons of CO₂ introduced from a truck. The fire was extinguished by late afternoon. By late Wednesday night, the containment vessel was open but was still being purged of the inert atmosphere and personnel access was limited. The full extent of damage had not been determined but was thought to be primarily to electrical and instrumentation cables. In addition, all surfaces inside the containment vessel were covered with black soot. No personnel injuries were reported. There was no radioactive material involved in the fire. The fuel elements for the reactor are at the site but are stored in a building outside the containment vessel.

Factual accounts of the fire were carried on radio news reports and by the news services. The Division of Public Information will use the above information in responding to any inquiries.

The JCAE was informed orally of this matter by the Office of Congressional Relations.

State authorities were informed by CO, Region I.

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