

Return to
James Shaker
Room 290
Bldg.

MAR 1

50-171

Honorable N. Neilson Craley, Jr.
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Craley:

Confirming your telephone conversation of February 23 with
Mr. Robert Lowenstein, Assistant Director of Regulation, there
is attached a summary of information which has been furnished
to us by our Division of Compliance concerning the fire in the
Peach Bottom reactor.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Harold L. Price

Harold L. Price
Director of Regulation

Attachment:
Summary

Distribution
Congressional (2)
General Counsel (2)
Compliance Division

OFFICE ▶	REG	REG	Compliance	Congressional	Gen. Counsel
SURNAME ▶	RLowenstein:aw	HLPrice	WK		
DATE ▶	2/25/65	2/24/65	2/24/65	2/11/65	2/28/65

A-420

INFORMATION ON PEACH BOTTOM FIRE

The fire was discovered around noon on February 3 at the Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Station. The fire occurred in the reactor containment building in an area where numerous electrical cables leave the building through special air-tight penetrations. It is believed that cable insulation was ignited by sparks from welding being done overhead. Fire fighting with portable equipment was started immediately by utility and contractor personnel. Other assistance responding to the emergency included the Delta, Pennsylvania, and Bel-Air, Maryland, fire departments and Aberdeen Proving Grounds.

Assessment of the damage to the facility and the consequent delay in startup is not complete. All horizontal surfaces in the building were covered with a heavy layer of soot which also penetrated into some electrical control boards, instruments, and other equipment. About half of the electrical cables leaving the reactor building pass through the area of the fire and were damaged to the point where replacement is required. A portion, as yet undetermined, of the completed preoperational tests will have to be repeated. We have been advised that as of this time, the upper part of the building has been cleaned and repainted and the damaged cable has been removed. It is apparent that startup of the plant will not take place for several months, but, until the cleanup and repairs have progressed further, no date will be established.

No nuclear material was involved in the fire. The fuel to be used in the plant was on the site, but was stored in a separate building remote from the reactor. No radiation hazards whatsoever existed. No personnel injuries occurred to our knowledge, although smoke inhalation would not be unexpected.