

TEBA

PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC COMPANY
Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station
Delta, Pennsylvania
17314

January 8, 1979

Mr. Boyce H. Grier
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region I
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

SUBJECT: REPORTABLE OCCURRENCE - PROMPT NOTIFICATION

Confirming C. E. Andersen's conversation with Mr. Greenman, Region I,
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission on 1/8/79.

Reference: Docket No. 050-277/78
Peach Bottom Units 2 and 3
Technical Specification Reference: 3.8.C.1

Report No. 3-79-2/1P
Occurrence Date: 1/8/79

Identification of Occurrence:

Gaseous release rate exceeded allowable Technical Specification limits
for instantaneous release rate.

Conditions Prior to Occurrence:

Unit 3 shutdown.

Apparent Cause of Occurrence:

Failure to maintain reactor coolant temperature low enough to prevent
vaporization while maintenance of isolation valves was in progress.

Analysis of Occurrence:

Unit 3 was shutdown for a maintenance outage and shutdown cooling was used
periodically to maintain reactor coolant at an acceptable level. At the time
of the occurrence, shutdown cooling had been off for about 1 1/2 hours. During that
time, the coolant temperatures rose to about 200°F. At the same time, the RCIC
steam isolation valves were both being maintained. The inner valve (MO-13-15)
was partially open and the outer valve (MO-13-16) was dismantled. This provided
a leak path for reactor coolant vapors to the MSIV room and then to the Unit 3
vent stack. The duration of the release was 1 1/2 hours and the peak levels were
270% of Technical Specifications on an instantaneous basis. Air samples were tak

7901220098

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS
POOR QUALITY PAGES

5

Two operators entered the room for approximately 20 minutes during this period to perform valve operations. An HP entered before the event to start an air sample and after the event to collect the air sample filter. His total time in the area was approximately 15 minutes. All three people were wearing respiratory protection and will be body counted to check the possibility of uptake.

The safety significance of this event is minimal.

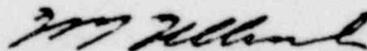
Corrective Action:

Upon discovery of this condition, shutdown cooling was placed back in service. The reactor water cooled down and the release was terminated.

Previous Occurrences:

3-78-19/1P

Very truly yours,



M. T. Ullrich, Superintendent
Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station

WTU/CEA:llm