

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: October 10, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--NO-I-80-149

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Philadelphia Electric Company  
Peach Bottom Units 2 and 3  
(DN 50-277, 50-278)  
Delta, Pennsylvania

Subject: UNPLANNED NOBLE GAS RELEASE

On October 10, 1980, maintenance work on a Unit 2 Hydrogen Analyzer resulted in a valve opening error and thereby caused a release of radioactive noble gas into the Recombiner Room, which exhausts into the Unit 3 ventilation exhaust. The valve was promptly shut, but the Unit 3 ventilation exhaust radiation monitor showed an increase from 70 uCi/sec to 1,650 uCi/sec between 1:45 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. Total release from the site during that time period was about 0.5 Ci, about 25% of the instantaneous release limit. Nasal smears of the two maintenance men nearest the release point showed 9-20 dpm. All 5 persons in the space involved are to receive whole body counts today. Preliminary licensee evaluation indicates no significant exposures.

Media interest is possible. The licensee is considering issue of a press release. No NRC press release is planned. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed.

An ENS report was made to the HQ:DO at 2:35 p.m. NRC Region I was informed of the event by resident inspector.

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Prepared by EXT Branch Chief EXT

DISTRIBUTION: (Facsimile Transmission Times Noted)

H ST BLDG 4:40  
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IE:XOOS 4:39  
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RI Resident Sites  
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(MAIL)  
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