

Date: March 10, 1981

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-81-34

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, Unit 3 (DN 50-278)  
Delta, Pennsylvania 17314

Subject: UNPLANNED RELEASE OF LIQUID RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

At 11:30 a.m., March 10, 1981 a 55-gallon drum used to catch several potentially radioactive drains overflowed onto the Turbine Building floor (116 foot elevation). About 10 gallons flowed into the storm drain system before the Turbine Building floor drains were plugged. The licensee sampled the spilled water and found it to contain Cs-134, Cs-137, Co-60 and Zn-65 in a total concentration of  $1.59\text{E-}4$  microcuries per milliliter (8.9 times MPC for the isotopic mixture). The total activity released into the storm drain system is estimated at 6 microcuries. The licensee is sampling the storm drain system and reviewing system prints to evaluate the release path to the environment. Depending upon the path, dilution may have been provided only by the storm sewer system or by storm sewers and 500,000 gpm circulating water flow.

The cause of the original drain barrel overflow was a cooling water supply valve not being tightly shut while isolating and draining a feed pump turbine lube oil cooler for maintenance. Licensee investigation and NRC resident inspector followup are continuing.

Media interest is possible due to sensitivity to nuclear issues. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. A press release is being considered by the licensee. The NRC does not plan a press release; media inquiries will be answered.

The NRC was informed by ENS call at 1:10 p.m., March 10, 1981. NRC Region I received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the resident inspector at 1:40 p.m., March 10, 1981.

Contact: Cowgill 717-456-7614

McCabe 488-1251

Keimig 488-1252



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March 10, 1981

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