

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

Date: August 15, 1980

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE - PNO-I-80-122

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

Subject: UNPLANNED RELEASES OF RADIOACTIVITY - WITHIN TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION LIMITS.

From about 9:15 a.m. to about 9:35 a.m. on August 15, 1980, an unplanned release of gaseous radioactivity from the Unit 3 reactor building roof vent occurred. The peak release rate was 33% of the Technical Specification allowable instantaneous rate. Total activity released was about 1.26 curies. Two earlier releases were also made, one on August 14, 1980 at about 1:30 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. of approximately 1.25 curies. The other on August 15, 1980 at about 6:40 a.m. to about 7:20 a.m. of approximately 1.25 curies. The cause of the release is believed to be a malfunction in the Unit 2 offgas system, to which minor modifications were made during the recent refueling outage.

Licensee investigation and NRC resident inspector followup are continuing.

Media interest is possible due to the sensitivity to nuclear power issues. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. A press release is being considered by the licensee but not currently planned by the NRC.

The NRC was informed via ENS (9:50 a.m.). NRC, Region I received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the resident inspector at 10:00 a.m. on August 15, 1980.

Contacts: E. Greenman 488-1267 E. J. Brunner 488-1240

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