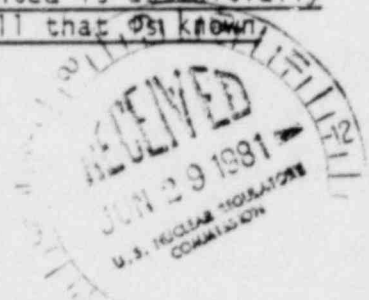


Date: June 23, 1981

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-81- 70

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 (DNs 50-277 and 50-278)  
Philadelphia Electric Company  
Delta, Pennsylvania

Subject: UPDATE ON UNPLANNED NOBLE G'S RELEASES, PNO-I-81-68

The licensee's latest analysis of the two previous releases (June 21 and 22, 1981) indicates that the loop seal on the moisture entrainment device was not involved as originally thought. Further tests of the recombiner system led to the conclusion that a drain isolation valve associated with a pressure dampening snubber on the "B" Mechanical Compressor may have leaked. The valved line drains to a building drain system which is vented to the recombiner room ventilation exhaust.

As a result of the evaluation the snubber drain valves for both the "A" and "B" Mechanical Compressor's were replaced with welded pipe caps to prevent further releases via this pathway.

Radioactive release evaluation indicates the following:

June 21, 1981 - 45% of technical specification instantaneous release rate; total release of 6.65 Ci, noble gas activity

June 22, 1981 - 182% of technical specification instantaneous release rate; total release of 11.34 Ci, noble gas activity.

On June 23, 1981, at 6:30 AM, during startup a Mechanical Compressor tripped resulting in 4.7% of the technical specification instantaneous release rate (as compared with a typical 0.1%). The licensee is currently evaluating this latest occurrence to determine the release path involved.

The Unit is currently at 12% power and the licensee is evaluating the problem. The resident inspector is following the evaluation onsite.

Media interest has occurred. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. The licensee has issued press releases for the two previous occurrences, but is not planning a press release for the most recent event. No press release is planned by the NRC but the Region I office has responded to media inquiries. NRC:Region I was informed by telephone call from the resident inspector of the latest release at 8:30 AM June 23.

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Contact: J. White 488-1329 C. Cowgill 488-1231  
R. Ke' ig 488-1224

**POOR ORIGINAL**

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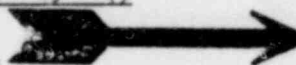
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