

Date: August 13, 1981

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-81-88

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

Subject: UNUSUAL EVENT (FIRE IN ROD POSITION INDICATION CIRCUITRY)

At 10:15 a.m. August 13, 1981, with the unit in cold shutdown (for a refueling and modification outage), a small fire occurred in the rod position indication system (RPIS) fuse box located in a cabinet in the cable spreading room. The fire was quickly extinguished using dry chemical fire extinguishers but some sparking continued for about 15 minutes until the RPIS was de-energized. All control rods are blocked fully inserted for Scram Discharge System modifications. The fire was caused by shorting of an untaped, energized 120 volt, AC lead in an adjacent cabinet as the power supply drawer was being removed for modification. Worker's had taped leads they believed, based on review of electrical diagrams, to be energized. The apparent failure of system fuses to provide protection is being investigated by the licensee. The resident inspector is following up onsite. The licensee classified the occurrence as an Unusual Event.

Media interest is possible, but is not likely due to the cold shutdown condition of the reactor. No press release is currently planned by the NRC or the licensee. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. NRC:Region I was informed by telephone calls from the resident inspector at 11:10 a.m. and the licensee at 11:15 a.m.

Contact: C. Cowgill      R. Keimig  
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