

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE--PNO-I-82- 60

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

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

Licensee Emergency Classification:
 Notification of Unusual Event
 Alert
 Site Area Emergency
 General Emergency
 Not Applicable

Subject: UNPLANNED LIQUID RELEASE

On September 17, 1982, an unplanned release of radioactive liquid from the Recombiner Building to the storm drain system occurred from about 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Recombiner Building ventilation filter fire suppression (sprinkler) system had activated inadvertently, and suppression water flowed across contaminated areas into the (contaminated) drain sump. Because the sprinkler rate exceeded sump pump capacity, the sump overflowed onto the building floor, under a door and into an outside storm drain. About 200 gallons was released. A sample from the nearest storm drain catch basin indicated 1.8 microcuries per milliliter of Cs-137, about 90% of Maximum Permissible Concentration (MPC). The next in-line catch basin indicated 17% of MPC indicating appreciable dilution. Sampling of subsequent catch basins in the storm drain prior to the Susquehanna River has shown no detectable activity. Licensee sampling and evaluation is ongoing. The total release has not yet been calculated by the licensee.

Media interest is possible due to sensitivity to nuclear issues. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been informed. The licensee has issued a press release. The licensee and NRC will respond to media inquiries.

The NRC was informed by ENS call at 11:45 a.m., September 17, 1982. NRC Region I received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the resident inspector at 12:05 p.m. September 17, 1982.

This information is current as of 3:00 p.m., September 17.

CONTACT: Blough 8-592-2381 Tripp 488-1227 Keimig 488-1224

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(Reactor Licensees)

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