

# PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC COMPANY

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May 27, 1988

Docket Nos. 50-277  
50-278

Document Control Desk  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station  
Special Report: Carbon Dioxide Fire  
Suppression System Out of Service  
for More than 14 Days

Gentlemen:

Technical Specification 3.14.B.4.b requires that, if the carbon dioxide fire suppression system (Cardox) protecting the Cable Spreading Room is out of service for more than 14 days, a special report be submitted to the Commission within 31 days outlining the cause of the malfunction and the plans for restoring the system to an operable status. On April 15, 1988 a hole was discovered in the ceiling of a Turbine Building Hallway. The hole penetrates the floor of the Cable Spreading Room above the hallway. Because the Cable Spreading Room floor is designated as a fire barrier in accordance with the Technical Specifications, a continuous fire watch was established in the Cable Spreading Room within one hour and the Cardox System was removed from service to ensure the safety of the fire watch. There was no system malfunction. The automatic and manual Cardox System actuation capability was removed. The Cardox System remained out of service in excess of 14 days, necessitating the submittal of this special report. The hole in the Cable Spreading Room floor was reported to the NRC in LER 2-88-07, dated May 16, 1988.

## Significance of Event:

Because Unit 2 is shutdown and Unit 3 is defueled, and because a continuous fire watch had been in place, the significance of the Cardox being out of service is minimal. If a fire occurred it could have been detected in the incipient stage by the fire watch who would have taken immediate action to alert the fire brigade and suppress the fire. In contrast, the

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automatic Cardox System may not actuate until additional fire damage occurred. In addition to the detection provided by the fire watch, smoke detectors which alarm in the control room were available. The fire watch was established in the Cable Spreading Room rather than in the Turbine Building hallway below because it appeared to be the more direct method of protecting the vital equipment in the Cable Spreading Room. Technical Specification 3.14.B.4.b permits reactor startup or continued operation in this situation.

Restoration of Cardox System:

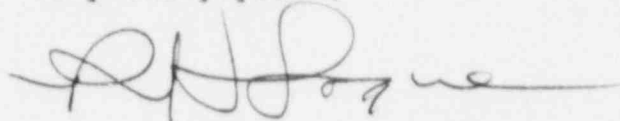
The hole in the floor of the Cable Spreading Room was repaired. The Cardox System was returned to service on May 26, 1988. The automatic and manual Cardox System actuation capability had been removed for a total of 42 days.

Previous Similar Occurrences:

None.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,



R. H. Logue  
Assistant to the Manager  
Nuclear Support Division

cc: W. T. Russell, Administrator, Region I, USNRC  
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