

March 30, 1976

## PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE --PNO-76-57

*PDR Adv. Copy per [signature]*

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 OIE staff as of 10:00 a.m. on date of this notification. IT SHOULD BE SPECIFICALLY NOTED THAT THIS NOTIFICATION MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT LATER MAY BE DETERMINED TO BE INACCURATE OR INCONSISTENT. AN OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT NOTIFICATION OF AN INCIDENT OR OCCURRENCE (BLUE SHEET) SUBSEQUENTLY WILL BE ISSUED IF WARRANTED.

Facility: Peach Bottom Unit 2 (DN 50-277)  
Philadelphia Electric Company

Subject: GASEOUS RADIOACTIVE RELEASE FROM REACTOR BUILDING VENT

A gaseous radioactive release occurred for a one hour period on March 29 while the unit was being cooled down for a refueling outage. The release occurred when the main steam isolation valves were reopened to control pressure following a minor problem in the RHR (Residual Heat Removal) system. Following the opening of the bypass valves to the main condenser, steam leaked into the turbine building because of low condenser vacuum.

The turbine building vent monitor spiked to 11.9 times the Technical Specification release rate limit. The release exceeded Technical Specification limits for 20 minutes. The maximum release rate was  $7.88 \times 10^4$  uCi/sec. The total gaseous release was 141 curies. The release is a small fraction of the radioactivity that can be released from the site during a 24 hour period.

There were no personnel exposures reported. The enclosed information is current as of 9:00 a.m. on March 30, 1976.

Media interest is expected because of continuing coverage of problems at nuclear reactors. The State of Pennsylvania has been informed. A press release is not planned.

NRC, Region I, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania received notification of this occurrence by telephone from the station superintendent at 4:40 p.m. on March 29.

An inspector is enroute to the site to review operator actions.

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