

PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC COMPANY

NUCLEAR GROUP HEADQUARTERS

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September 27, 1991

Docket Nos. 50-277
50-278

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DAVID R. HELWIG
VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR ENGINEERING & SERVICES

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

Subject: Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Units 2 and 3
Follow-up Actions Related to Cable Insulation Failures

Dear Sir:

On August 8, 1991, representatives from Philadelphia Electric Company and the NRC met to discuss recent cable insulation failures at Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station (PBAPS), Units 2 and 3. Our presentation included a discussion of recent failures, an explanation of the failure mechanism "treeing," a brief description of a power system improvement modification and our plans for additional cable inspection. The purpose of this letter is to provide updated information regarding our plans for additional inspection.

At the meeting, we indicated that during the upcoming Unit 3 refueling outage we would inspect two cable runs of comparable failure potential, one Residual Heat Removal (RHR) motor cable and one High Pressure Service Water (HPSW) cable. During our discussions, the NRC suggested that we inspect a cable of the highest safety significance, regardless of our estimate of its likelihood to fail. In response to this suggestion, PECO committed to re-evaluate the selection of cables to be examined.

As a result of this re-evaluation, we have modified the plan for cable sampling to substitute a cable of high safety significance in place of the RHR cable previously planned. It is our assessment that since both the HPSW and RHR cables are equivalent with respect to the factors that influence the formation of trees, either is technically acceptable and will provide sufficient data for evaluation. The inclusion of a cable of high safety significance and low likelihood of failure will validate our assessment of the full range of failure potential.

We are currently evaluating available alternatives with the intention of inspecting the selected cable during the earliest available

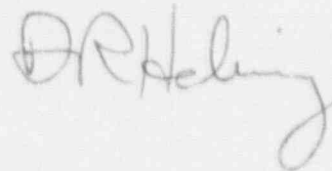
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equipment or system outage. We will keep the Senior Resident Inspector informed of our specific plans and actions.

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

Very truly yours,



cc: T. T. Martin, Administrator, Region I, USNRC
J. J. Lyash, USNRC Senior Resident Inspector, PBAPS