

February 22, 2000

Dr. John C. Lee, Interim Director
Phoenix Memorial Laboratory
Ford Nuclear Reactor
University of Michigan
2301 Bonisteel Boulevard
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-2100

SUBJECT: NRC ROUTINE, ANNOUNCED INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-20/2000201

Dear Dr. Lee:

This refers to the inspection conducted on February 1 - 4, 2000, at the Ford Nuclear Reactor. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations of activities in progress.

Based on the results of this inspection, no safety concern or noncompliance to NRC requirements was identified. No response to this letter is required.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, please contact Mr. Thomas Dragoun at 610-337-5373.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ledyard B. Marsh, Chief
Events Assessment, Generic Communications
and Non-Power Reactors Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-02
License No. R-28

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report No. 50-02/2000201
cc w/enclosure: Please see next page

The University of Michigan

Docket No. 50-2

cc:

Special Assistant to the Governor
Office of the Governor
Room 1 - State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48909

Mr. B. DuCamp
Phoenix Memorial Laboratory
University of Michigan - North Campus
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality
Drinking Water and Radiological
Protection Division
P.O. Box 30630
Lansing, MI 48909-8130

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket No: 50-02

License No: R-28

Report No: 50-02/2000201

Licensee: University of Michigan

Facility: Ford Nuclear Reactor

Location: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dates: February 1-4, 2000

Inspector: Thomas F. Dragoun

Approved by: Ledyard B. Marsh, Director
Events Assessment, Generic Communications and
Non-Power Reactors Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This routine, announced inspection included onsite review of selected aspects of the organizational structure and functions program, surveillance program, procedural control program, since the last NRC inspection of this program.

The licensee's programs were acceptably directed toward the protection of public health and safety, and in compliance with NRC requirements.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS

The organizational structure and functions were consistent with Technical Specification requirements.

SURVEILLANCE

The surveillance program satisfied Technical Specification requirements.

PROCEDURES

The procedural control and implementation program satisfied Technical Specification requirements.

Report Details

Summary of Plant Status

During the inspection the reactor was operated continuously at full power to support experiments and service work.

1. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS

a. Scope (IP 39745)

The inspector reviewed selected aspects of:

- organization and staffing
- qualifications
- management responsibilities
- administrative controls

b. Observations and Findings

The organizational structure had not changed since the last inspection. The reactor organization has undergone supervisory and operating personnel changes the last few years as management dealt with reportable events. Most of the changes are nearing completion. As expected, these changes, combined with changes in upper university management and uncertainties regarding relicensing have had some negative impact on morale. However, the material condition of the facility and safety culture are improved.

The organizational structure and staffing at the facility was as required by TS. Overall staffing level was adequate to support the three shift operating schedule. Shift manning and shift turnovers were satisfactory. Qualifications of the staff met TS requirements. Relations between the health physics and reactor operations groups were good. Review of records verified that management responsibilities were administered as required by TS and applicable procedures.

c. Conclusions

The organizational structure and functions were consistent with Technical Specification requirements.

2. SURVEILLANCE

a. Scope (IP 61745)

The inspector reviewed selected aspects of:

- surveillance and calibration procedures,
- surveillance, calibration and test data sheets and records

b. Observations and Findings

Surveillance and calibrations were completed on schedule and in accordance with licensee procedures. Surveillance procedures were thorough and provided assurance regarding the operability of safety systems. All the recorded results were within the TS and procedurally prescribed parameters. The records and logs reviewed were complete, reviewed by management, and readily retrievable. Checks, tests, and calibrations were completed as required by TS.

c. Conclusions

The surveillance program satisfied Technical Specification requirements.

3. PROCEDURES (IP 42745)

a. Scope

The inspector reviewed selected aspects of:

- records for changes and temporary changes
- procedural implementation
- logs and records

b. Observations and Findings

Procedures required by the TS were available. Personnel conducted activities in accordance with applicable procedures. Procedures were clear with consistent format. Review and approval was as required. A few recently revised procedures used a different format as part of management efforts to improve effectiveness.

c. Conclusions

The procedural control and implementation program satisfied Technical Specification requirements.

4. EXIT INTERVIEW

The inspector presented the inspection results to members of licensee management at the conclusion of the inspection on February 4, 2000. The licensee acknowledged the findings presented.

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Licensee

C. Becker, Nuclear Reactor Laboratory Manager
M. Driscoll, Director, Radiation Safety
B. DuChamp, Assistant Manager, Reactor Operations
J. Lee, Director, Michigan Memorial Phoenix Project
D. Wehe, Assistant Director, Michigan Memorial Phoenix Project

INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED

IP 39745	CLASS I NON-POWER REACTORS ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES
IP 42745	CLASS I NON-POWER REACTOR PROCEDURES
IP 61745	CLASS I NON-POWER REACTOR SURVEILLANCE

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

Opened

None

Closed

None

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

IP	Inspection procedure
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
TS	Technical Specifications

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SUBJECT: NRC ROUTINE, ANNOUNCED INSPECTION REPORT
NO. 50-20/2000201

ORIGINATOR: T. DRAGOUN

SECRETARY: R. RHOTEN

DATE: 2/16/2000

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