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April 17, 2000

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Document Control Desk

Subject: Facility License No. R-97, Docket No. 50-160  
Reportable Occurrence Report

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the Georgia Institute of Technology, Neely Nuclear Research Center, Technical Specifications to Operating License No. R-97, Docket No. 50-160, I submit this written report of a temporary interruption of our security procedure. This report documents telephone notification to the NRC Operations Center on Monday, April 3, 2000 and Wednesday, April 5, 2000.

- (1) Description, Analysis and Evaluation of Safety Implications
  - a. On Saturday morning, April 3, 2000 at 0645 hours, the Georgia Tech Police Department called the Georgia Tech Radiation Safety Officer and reported that security lights to the Georgia Tech Research Reactor (GTRR) indicated a problem (not an alarm).
  - b. The Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) responded to the call and did an internal walkthrough within the GTRR facility. The RSO found no internal problems involving safety or security. An external walk around the GTRR Secured Access Area indicated no breach of security. An extended walk around the outside of the Secured Access Area did indicate ground digging crews nearby preparing for an adjacent parking garage. A view in one of the digs identified broken cables.
  - c. The RSO then went to the Georgia Tech Police Department and found that the radiation and fire alarms were non responsive; however, the closed circuit TV monitors inside the facility were still operational. The RSO requested and received additional police patrol for the duration of the incident.

(2) Outline of Measure Taken To Assure That the Cause of the Condition Was Determined

- a. Walk through of site by RSO on April 1, 2000, Saturday morning after Police reported problem.
- b. Validation of RSO assessment by GTRR operations staff personnel on Monday morning, April 3, 2000.
- c. On April 3, 2000 and again on April 4, 2000 the adjacent parking garage construction general manager, the GT Office of Information Technology, the Resident Engineer for the Parking Garage met with the RSO and GTRR operations personnel and attested to the damaged cables.
- d. The GT Office of Information Technology did a trace of GTRR security cables and concluded that the broken cables were from the GTRR facility.

(3) Corrective Actions Taken

- a. Additional police patrols of GTRR were immediately initiated until the problem was resolved.
- b. On Monday, April 3, 2000, GTRR operations personnel validated the RSO's interim assessment. The Director of NNRC, the GTRR operations staff, the health physics staff, the decommissioning executive engineer and decommissioning contractor were notified. Other than decommissioning operations, all other GTRR activities involving radiation use were not permitted.
- c. Meetings were held with the parking garage general contractor, with the resident engineer for the parking garage and the GT Office of Information Technology. A plan for cable repair was developed and agreed upon.
- d. The GT Office of Information Technology called and coordinated with a cable repair company a re-splicing of the cables. The cables were repaired and radiation and fire alarm indications to the GT Police department were resumed on Wednesday, April 6 at 3:00 PM.
- e. The NRC inspector was onsite Tuesday, April 4, 2000 and was briefed on the event.

(4) Evaluation of Safety

- a. The security system "problem" indicator lights worked as designed.
- b. The loss of cable signal from GTRR to the police department impacted only after-hour safety and security. All systems were working internal to the facility; thus work-hour safety and security were maintained.

- c. Visual surveillance of the GTRR facility via the Police Department TV monitors was unaffected by the cable cutting—Only the “problem” alarm signals were disrupted.
- d. The GT Police Department increased regular patrols of the facility until the cable breakage was prepared, thereby maintaining adequate safety and security.
- e. As a matter of security, the security cables were not identified on any parking garage construction drawings.

Sincerely,



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Director, Neely Nuclear Research Center

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Technical Safety Review Committee