

April 18, 2000

Test, Research and Training Reactors Community

Dear Colleague:

The final report, "Survey of Non-Power Reactors," is enclosed for your information and use. A draft of this report was prepared by the former Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data (AEOD) and, in accordance with the AEOD peer review process, provided to the Test, Research and Training Reactors (TRTR) community and cognizant individuals within the NRC in December 1996 for review and comment. This final report replaces the draft report in its entirety.

We are sending this final report to all members of the TRTR community and others who commented on the draft. We thank those who provided comments for their time, insight, and candor. We believe that this final report is responsive to the comments.

The study includes reviews of operating events, inspection findings, National Organization of Test, Research, and Training Reactors feedback to the non-power reactor community, NRC enforcement actions, and visits to representative facilities. The survey was focused on the "higher power" (typically 2 MW or greater) Materials Testing Reactor-fueled facilities because of their relatively higher fission product inventories and TRIGA-fueled reactors because of the number of similar facilities.

Operating experience indicates that non-power reactors have a good overall safety performance. None of the operating events considered in the study resulted in fuel damage or radiation releases in excess of regulatory limits. Except for one event in 1986, personnel exposures have been within 10 CFR 20 limits. No adverse effect on public health and safety was seen.

During the course of performing the non-power reactor survey, many facilities promptly addressed emerging issues or lessons learned that were contained in the draft report. Ongoing findings of the survey were also communicated during NRC presentations at several annual meetings held by the non-power reactor community. Based on our review and the safety performance of non-power reactors, recommendations for specific actions by either licensees or the NRC were not supported. Therefore, the final report is issued for information only. Survey observations in Section 4 of the report suggest some potential areas for improving operational or safety performance.

If you have any questions regarding this study, please feel free to contact me at (301) 415-7499 or John Kauffman at (301) 415-7479.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Charles E. Rossi, Director
Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Enclosure: As stated

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Template= RES-006 Accession Number ML003706390 RES File Code RES-7A-1

Addressees – Memorandum Dated 04/18/2000

Stephen J. LaFlamme, Director
Nuclear Reactor Facility
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester, MA 01609

Manhattan College
Mechanical Engineering Dept.
Catherine C. Staton, Acting
Reactor Administrator.
Riverdale, NY 10471

Scott Lassell, Reactor Supervisor
Ward Center for Nuclear Sciences
Cornell University
106 Ward Lab
Ithaca, NY 14853

Director
Radiation Safety Office
Catholic University
33 Hannan Hall
Washington, DC 20064

Gunter Kegel, Director
Radiation Lab
University of Mass-Lowell
One University Avenue
Lowell, MA 01854

James J. McGovern, President
Cintichem Inc.
P.O. Box 816
Tuxedo, NY 10987

Waltz Mill
Nuclear Energy Systems
Westinghouse Electric Corp.
P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, PA 15230

U.S. Maritime Administration
N.S. Savannah
Senior Technical Advisor
Room 7209
400 7th Street SW MAR-800.2
Washington, DC 20590

John A. Bernard, Director
MIT Nuclear Reactor Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Tech.
138 Albany Street NW12-208
Cambridge, MA 02139

Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst.
Risk Management
William M. Christenson
Radiation Sfty/Hlth Specialis
110 8th Streett
Troy, NY 12181

Penn State University
Dept. of Nuclear Safety
Eric J. Boeldt
Mgr of Radiation Protection
Eisenhower Parking Deck
University Park, PA 16802

Dr. Aris Christou, Chairman
Dept. of Materials & Nuclear Eng.
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

Terry N. Tehan, Director
Nuclear Science Center
Rhode Island Atomic Energy
16 Reactor Road
Narragansett, RI 02882

David Vasbinder, Director
Buffalo Materials Research Ctr.
University at Buffalo
301 Michael Hall — 3435 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214

Vice President
Saxton Nuclear Experimental Company
2574 Interstate Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Dr. W. Chappas, Reactor Director
Dept. of Materials & Nuclear Eng.
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

Armed Forces Radiobiological Research
Institute
Office of the Director
Naval Medical Command
National Capitol Region
Bethesda, MD 20889

Nolan E. Hertel, Director
Neely Research Center
Georgia Institute of Technology
900 Atlantic Drive
Atlanta, GA 30332

Ronald Fleming, Director
Ford Nuclear Reactor
University of Michigan
2301 Bonisteel Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Ward L. Rigot
Reactor Supervisor
Dow Chemical Company
1602 Bldg.
Midland, MI 48667

Richard L. Holm
Reactor Supervisor
Radiation Science Laboratory
214 Nuclear Reactor Laboratory
University of Illinois
103 South Goodwin Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801-2984

Kansas State University
Dept. of Mech. & Nuclear Eng.
Brendan Ryan
112 Ward Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506

Thomas L. Bauer
Nuclear Engineering Teaching Lab
Pickle Research Campus
University of Texas R9000
Austin, TX 78712

David M. Slaughter
University of Utah Center Room 104
160 South Central Campus Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

General Atomics
Dr. Keith E. Asmussen, Director
License, Safety&Nuclear Compliance
P.O. Box 85608.
San Diego, CA 92186

Director
Reactor Facility
Reed College
3203 SE Woodstock Blvd.
Portland, OR 97202

University of Virginia
Nuclear Reactor Facility
Robert U. Mulder
Reactor Director & Assoc Prof
P.O. Box 3425, University Station
Charlottesville, VA 22903

William G. Vernetson, Director
Nuclear Engineering Sciences Dept.
University of Florida
P.O. Box 118300
Gainesville, FL 32611

U.S. Veterans Administration Medical Ctr
41201 Woolworth Avenue
Omaha, NE 68105

Director – Nuclear Reactor Facility
University of Missouri
Rolla, MO 65401

University of Missouri—Rolla
Nuclear Reactor Facility
1870 Miner Circle
Rolla, MO 65409

Reactor Manager
U.S. Geological Survey
Denver Federal Center
P.O. Box 25046 MS 974
Denver, CO 80225

Dr. John G. Williams, Director
Nuclear Reactor Lab
University of Arizona
P.O. Box 210020 BLDG 20
Tucson, AZ 85721

G.L. Stimmell, Manager
Vallecitos Nuclear Center
GE Nuclear Energy
6705 Vallecitos Road
Sunol, CA 94566

Director
100 Radiation Center
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331

Pedro B. Perez, Chairman
National Organization of Test, Research,
and Training Reactors
North Carolina State University
Box 7909
Raleigh, NC 27695-7909

David B. Ashley, Director
Engineering Experiment Station
Ohio State University
167 Hitchcock Hall
Columbus, OH 43210

Dept. of Mechanical Engineering
Nuclear Engineering Program
Iowa State University
2025 HM Black Engineering Bldg.
Ames, IA 50011

J.C. McKibben
Research Reactor Facility
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211

University—Texas A&M
Dept of Nuclear Engineering
John W. Poston, Sr., Professor & Head
129 Zachry Engineering Center
College Station, TX 77843

Tawfik Raby, N.I.S.T.
100 Bureau Drive Stop 8561
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8561

Idaho State University
College of Engineering
John S. Bennion
Reactor Administrator
P.O. Box 8060 Campus
Pocatello, Idaho 83209

Chief Reactor Supervisor
Dept. of Chemical and Nuclear Eng.
University of New Mexico
FEC 209
Albuquerque, NM 87131

Ray R. Tsukimura, President
Aerotest Operations, Inc.
3455 Fostoria Way
San Ramon, CA 94583

Office of the Dean
College of Engineering
University of Washington
P.O. Box 352180
Seattle, WA 98195

University of N. Carolina State
Director-Nuclear Reactor Prog.
Nuclear Engineering Dept.
141178 7909 Room 2116 Burlington
Raleigh, NC 27695

Edward Merritt, Reactor Supervisor
School of Nuclear Engineering
Purdue University
1290 Nuclear Engineering Bldg
West Lafayette, IN 47907

R.J. Cashwell, Reactor Director
Nuclear Engineering Department
University of Wisconsin
1513 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53706

Texas Engineering Exper Station
Nuclear Science
W.D. Reece, Director
1095 Nuclear Science RD #3575
College Station, TX 77843

Francis F. Paul
Idaho Brain Tumor Center
P.O. Box 2827
Idaho Falls, ID 83403

T. Schoone
University of Missouri
Research Reactor Facility
Columbia, MO 65211

Dr. J. Razvi, General Mgr.
General Atomic Company
10240 Flanders Court MS: SE/TRIGA
San Diego, CA 92121

Dr. Wade J. Richards, Director MNRC
Department of the Air Force
U.S. Department of Defense
SM-ALC/TI-1
McClellan AFB, CA 95652

Gerald E. Tripard, Director
Nuclear Radiation Center
Washington State University
P.O. Box 641300
Pullman, WA 99164

Mr. Neal T. Saunders
Director of Aeronautics
NASA Lewis Research Center
21000 Brookpark Road M.S. 3-8
Cleveland, OH 44135

Dr. J. Michael Rowe, Chief
Reactor Radiation Division
N.I.S.T.
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-0001

Dennis Smith
Executive Chancellor
Department of Chemistry
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA 92717

Lester A. Slaback, Jr.
122 East Deer Park Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2013

Brian Dodd
OSU Radiation Center
Oregon State University
100 Radiation Center
Corvallis, OR 97331-5903

Westinghouse Electric Company – NSD
Wayne D. Vogel
P.O. Box 158
MS: 16
Madison, PA 15663

Korea Electric Power Corporation
Windsor Office
Heeyong Lee
Nuclear Engineering Director
2000 Day Hill Road
Windsor, CT 06095

Memorandum Dated 04/18/2000

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