



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission  
NUCLEAR SCIENCE CENTER  
16 Reactor Road  
Narragansett, R.I. 02882-1165

April 24, 2001

Mr. Ledyard B. Marsh, Chief  
Events Assessment, Generic Communications and Non-Power Reactors Branch  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Marsh:

RE: Reply to a Notice of Violation

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201, the Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center hereby responds to a Notice of Violation transmitted with a letter dated April 13, 2001 and received April 20, 2001. Our responses will restate the alleged violation as presented in the Notice of Violation followed immediately by our response.

- 1. *Section 6.5.6 of the Technical Specifications requires, in part, that written Radiological Control procedures, that are adequate to assure the safe operation of the reactor and that have been reviewed and approved by the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Committee be used at the facility.*

*Contrary to the above, a set of written instructions on performing contamination surveys was never submitted to the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Committee nor approved as a radiological control procedure.*

*This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement IV).*

Response: During an earlier inspection, we acknowledged that existing radiological control procedures needed to be revised and upgraded and additional procedures needed to be developed. As noted in the inspection report, we have been revising and updating our existing procedures and developing additional procedures. Several of the revised radiological control procedures had been reviewed and approved by the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Committee and implemented before the inspection. We have a standard operating procedure (SOP) governing the development, review and approval of standard operating procedures. Under that SOP, the RINSC staff reviews draft radiological control procedures before they

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are submitted to the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Committee for review and approval. A draft procedure covering radiation and contamination surveys had been developed before the inspection but had not completed its review and approval process. Since the inspection, the RINSC staff has completed its review of the revised procedure and the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Committee is reviewing the procedure. The procedure should be formerly approved by the Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting in October 2001.

2. *10 CFR 50.34(c) requires that the licensee have a Physical Protection Plan.*

*The section entitled "Lock System" in the licensee's Physical Protection Plan requires that a physical inventory of locks, cores, and keys be conducted at least once every 90 days.*

*Contrary to the above, inventories were conducted on January 24, May 18, and August 2, 2000, and on January 2, 2001. The periods between January 24, 2000, and May 18, 2000, and between August 2, 2000 and January 2, 2001, exceed 90 days.*

*This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement III).*

Response: Our security plan requires a physical inventory of the locks, cores and keys every ninety days. Under Technical Specification 1.38, quarterly surveillance activities may be completed at intervals not exceeding four months. Staff members conducting the inventory were unaware that the security plan did not allow similar flexibility for completion of the inventory. The staff members were instructed at the close of the inspection and now understand that the security plan does not allow inventories to be conducted at intervals exceeding ninety days. In addition, we will write an inventory procedure, subject to review and approval of the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Committee, including the statement that an inventory will be conducted at least every ninety days. Future plans include revising the security plan to eliminate those items required for Moderate Strategic Significance due to the change in licensing status of the facility to Low Strategic Significance.

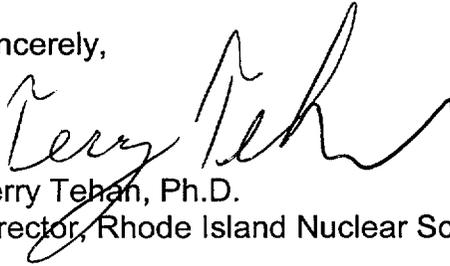
It should be noted that the items inventoried are either issued to staff members or locked in a safe located within the controlled access area (reactor building). The locks consist of one padlock on the reactor entry door and a spare located in the safe. No spare door cylinder cores have been in our inventory for years. There are fourteen keys issued to staff personnel who are instructed to notify a supervisor if the keys are missing. Reactor door only entry keys and the padlocked reactor entry door are inventoried at the end of each day on the Checklist for Securing the Reactor Facility (NSC-15). Although not specifically inventoried, the presence of the other hardware in

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the safe is evident during the end of day inventory. Likewise, entry to the  
knox-box would require breaking a seal that is observable at the facility front  
door.

If you need additional information or clarification of this letter, please contact the  
undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Tehan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Terry Tehan, Ph.D.  
Director, Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center

CC:           The Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission  
              Mr. Craig Bassett, USNRC