



June 7, 2001

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

RE: Reportable Occurrence: Violation of Tech Spec 6.1.3.a.1
License No. R-2, Docket No. 50-005

Dear Sir or Madame:

This letter is to report, in accordance with Tech Spec 6.6.2, a reportable occurrence on June 7, 2001 at the Pennsylvania State University's Breazeale Nuclear Reactor. Voice mail messages regarding the occurrence were left with Marvin Mendonca, NRC Headquarters at approximately 0923 hours and with Tom Dragoun, NRC Region 1 at approximately 0926 hours on June 7, 2001.

A violation of Tech Spec 6.1.3.a.1 occurred when the reactor operator left the control room without removing the key from the console key switch. Tech Spec 6.1.3.a.1 states: "The minimum staffing when the reactor is not secured shall be: A licensed operator present in the control room, in accordance with applicable regulations." A reconstruction of the event demonstrated that a licensed operator was not present in the control room for less than 75 seconds. All conditions for the reactor being secured were met with the exception of the console key switch.

Interviews were conducted with personnel involved and console records were reviewed to ascertain the conditions during the event. These investigations provided positive verification that the reactor was "secured" in all aspects except the key switch during the time the operator was out of the control room.

A 14 -day letter will be submitted by June 21, 2001.

Sincerely,

C. Frederick Sears, Director
Radiation Science & Engineering Center

Pc: M. Mendonca (NRC Headquarters)
T. Dragoun (NRC Region I)
E. Pell
L. Burton
D. Sathianathan

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