

December 12, 2001

Dr. David M. Slaughter, Chairman, TRTR
Director of CENTER
122 S. Central Campus Drive, Room 104
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

SUBJECT: TRTR SURVEY ON NRC SAFEGUARDS ADVISORY

Dear Dr. Slaughter:

This letter confirms the results of a meeting with the TRTR Executive Committee in Reno, Nevada on November 10, 2001. From that meeting, I understand that TRTR will undertake a program to conduct the subject survey. In this survey, TRTR plans to request information from each operating non-power reactor licensee. The requested information will include how licensees have addressed the provisions of NRC's October 12 Safeguards Information Advisory. In addition, the survey will ask what additional measures have been or are planned to be implemented.

Also, the discussions in the meeting recognized that some information may be safeguards or proprietary, which licensees may not feel comfortable sharing with TRTR representatives. We also discussed that some licensees may wish to address these issues directly with the NRC staff. In those cases, TRTR or the licensee should discuss the issue with Mr. Marvin Mendonca of my staff.

Additionally, NRC staff plans to conduct site visits to all 2 megawatt and greater licensed power level reactors. The NRC staff will also visit selected less than 2 megawatt non-power reactors. NRC will work with TRTR to avoid duplication of effort.

Once we have gathered this information, TRTR, any licensees who want to individually participate and NRC staff will then compile the range of methods used to address the advisory's guidance. For the 2 megawatt and greater licensed power level non-power reactors, we suggest that this phase be completed by December 21, 2001. For the lower power research reactors, we would like to complete this information compilation by January 25, 2002. After consideration of this information by the NRC, the NRC staff will discuss the information with TRTR, and any licensees who want to individually participate. For the 2 megawatt and greater licensed power level non-power reactors, we suggest that this phase be completed by January 25, 2002. For the lower powered facilities, we would suggest completion of this phase by February 22, 2002.

This letter also responds to a November 9, 2001, letter from the previous TRTR Chairman on this issue. That letter, among other things, asked NRC to inform TRTR if TRTR could be of further assistance on this issue. I feel that the November 10, 2001, meeting addressed this point with TRTR's plan to conduct the subject survey.

Dr. D. M. Slaughter

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In the November 9 letter, TRTR also provided judgements on the general radiological safety and safeguard requirements of the non-power reactors. As discussed in the November 10 meeting, the protection and safety of these reactors depend on facility specific conditions. As part of the subject survey process, we plan to consider not only facility specific conditions but also generic safety and safeguards implications for non-power reactors.

Should you have any questions on this matter, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Patrick M. Madden, Section Chief
Non-Power Reactors and Financial Section
Operational Experience and Non-Power Reactors Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: Please see next page

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

Mr. Stephen I. Miller, Reactor Facility Director
Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute
Naval Medical Center
8901 Wisconsin Ave.
Bethesda, MD 20889-5603

Dr. Kenan Ünlü, Director
Ward Center for Nuclear Sciences
Cornell University
105 Ward Laboratory
Ithaca, NY 14853-7701

Mr. Ward L. Rigot, Facility Director and Reactor Supervisor
Dow Chemical Company
1602 Building
Midland, MI 48674

Keith Asmussen
General Atomics
3550 General Atomics Courts
P.O. Box 85608
San Diego, CA 92186-9784

Chris Hamilton
Vallecitos and Morris Operations
Vallecitos Nuclear Center
General Electric Company
6705 Vallecitos Road
Sunol, CA 94586

Dr. Nolan E. Hertel, Director
Neely Nuclear Research Center
Georgia Institute of Technology
900 Atlantic Drive
Atlanta, GA 30332-0425

Dr. John Bennion
Research Reactor Facility
College of Engineering
Idaho State University, Box 8060
Pocatello, ID 83209

Mr. Scott E. Wendt, Reactor Manager
Mechanical Engineering Department
209W Nuclear Engineering Laboratory
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011-2241

Mr. Michael Whalley, Manager
KSU Nuclear Reactor Facility
Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering
112 Ward Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506-5204

Dr. Richard Heist
Manhattan College
Manhattan College Parkway
Riverdale, NY 10471-4098

Dr. John Bernard, Director
of Reactor Operations
Nuclear Reactor Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
138 Albany Street
Mail Stop NW 12-208
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dr. Wade J. Richards
University of California, Davis
McClellan Nuclear Radiation Center
5335 Price Avenue, Bldg 258
McClellan, CA 95652

Mr. Timothy Polich
NASA
Plumbrook Station
6100 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, OH 44870

Dr. Seymour H. Weiss
NIST Center for Neutron Research
National Institute of Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce
Gaithersburg, MD 20899

Mr. Gerald Wicks
Acting Associate Director
Nuclear Reactor Program
Department of Nuclear Engineering
North Carolina State University
Campus Box 7909

Raleigh, NC 27695-7909

Mr. Richard Myser, Associate Director
Nuclear Reactor Laboratory
Ohio State University
1298 Kinnear Rd.
Columbus, OH 43212-1154

Dr. Stephen E. Binney, Director
Oregon State University
Radiation Center, A100
Corvallis, OR 97331-5903
Radiation Center (541) 737-2341

Dr. C. Frederick Sears, Director
The Pennsylvania State University
Breazeale Nuclear Reactor
University Park, PA 16802-1504

Dr. Robert Bean, Director, Radiation Laboratories
1290 Nuclear Engineering Bldg.
School of Nuclear Engineering
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907

Mr. Stephen G. Frantz, Director
Reed Reactor Facility
Reed College
3203 SE Woodstock Blvd.
Portland, OR 97202

Dr. Donald R. Harris, Director, Critical Facility
Department of Nuclear Engineering and Engineering Physics Program
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Troy, NY 12180-3590

Dr. Terence Tehan, Director
Nuclear Science Center
Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission
16 Reactor Road
Narragansett, RI 02882

Mr. Mark Adams
Buffalo Materials Research Center
State University of New York
Rotary Road
Buffalo, NY 14214-3096

Dr. Alan Waltar
Head of Nuclear Engineering

Texas A&M University
Zachry Bldg. Room 129
College Station, TX 77843-3133

Dr. Warren D. Reece, Director
Nuclear Science Center
Texas Engineering Experiment Station
F. E. Box 89, M/S 3575
College Station, TX 77843

Mr. Tim DeBey, Reactor Supervisor
U.S. Geological Survey
Denver Federal Center
P.O. Box 25046, MS 974
Denver, CO 80255-0046

University of Arizona
Nuclear Research Laboratory
ATTN: Mike Gavelek,, Reactor Supervisor
Bldg. 20, Rm. 200
Tucson, AZ 85721-0020

Dr. George E. Miller
Department of Chemistry
516 Physical Sciences 1
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA 92697-2025

Dr. William Vernetson
Director of Nuclear Facilities
102 Nuclear Reactor Bldg.
Department of Nuclear Engineering Sciences
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-8300

Mr. Richard L. Holm, Reactor Administrator
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Department of Nuclear Engineering
Radiation Science Laboratory
214 Nuclear Engineering Laboratory
103 South Goodwin Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801-2984

Mr. Vincent G. Adams
Associate Director-Reactor Facility
Department of Materials and
Nuclear Engineering
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

Mr. Leo M. Bobek
Nuclear Radiation Laboratory
University of Massachusetts Lowell
One University Avenue
Lowell, MA 01854

Mr. C.W. Becker
Phoenix Memorial Laboratory
2301 Bonisteel Boulevard
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Mr. Ralph Butler, Interim Director
Research Reactor Facility
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211

Mr. William E. Bonzer, Reactor Manager
University of Missouri, Rolla
Nuclear Reactor Facility
1870 Miner Circle
Rolla, MO 65409-0630

Dr. Robert D. Busch, Chief Reactor Supervisor
Chemical and Nuclear Engineering Department
University of New Mexico
209 Farris Engineering Department
Albuquerque, NM 87131-1341

Dr. Robert U. Mulder, Director
UVA Reactor Facility
Department of Nuclear Engineering
Charlottesville, VA 22903-2442

Mr. Robert J. Agasie
Reactor Director
Nuclear Reactor Laboratory
1513 University Avenue, Room 141ME
University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI 53706-1687

Mr. John P. Claassen
Reactor Manager/Supervisor
Omaha Veterans Administration
Medical Center
4101 Woolworth Avenue
Omaha, NE 68105

Dr. Gerald E. Tripard, Director
Nuclear Radiation Center
Washington State University
Pullman, WA 99164

Mr. Richard K. Smith
Environmental Remediation for CBS Corporation
CBS Corporation
Gateway Center
11 Stanwix Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Mr. Stephen J. LaFlamme, Director
Nuclear Reactor Facility
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
100 Institute Road
Worcester, MA 01609-2280

Mr. Joseph H. Seelinger
Office of Ship Operations
Chief Division of Ship Maintenance and Repair (MAR-611)
U.S. Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. G. A. Kuehn, Jr.
Vice President SNEC and
Program Director SNEC Facility
GPU Nuclear, Inc.
Route 441 South
P.O. Box 480
Middletown, PA 17057-0480

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