

March 1, 2002

Dr. Aris Christou
Professor and Chair
Department of Materials and Nuclear Engineering
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742

Dear Professor Christou,

Please accept my apology for not responding to your letter of November 8, 2001, sooner. However due to the current NRC procedure of sending all incoming mail to be irradiated prior to opening, we received the letter just this week. I was pleased to learn that you are interested in providing the NRC with a proposal associated with continuing use of the University of Maryland 2x4 Thermal Hydraulic Loop Facility (UM 2x4 Loop). If you have sent a proposal along the lines discussed in your November 8, 2001, letter, we have not yet received it.

You may wish to consider e-mail or premium mail service to avoid possible delays in future correspondence.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ashok Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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