



Rensselaer

DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL,
AEROSPACE, AND NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

February 26, 2004

James E. Lyons, Program Director
New, Research and Test Reactors Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Re: Docket No. 50-225
License No. CX-22
RPI Reactor RCF

Reply to a Notice of Violation

Dear Mr. Lyons:

Enclosed is Rensselaer's response to the violation notice sent to our office recently. The notice followed an inspection that was conducted in January 2004.

Rensselaer's response was prepared by Mr. Glenn Winters, Director of the Reactor Critical Facility. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Don Steiner
Institute Professor of Nuclear Engineering and
Nuclear Engineering and Engineering Physics Program Director

DS:pz
Enc.

cc: Dean William A. "Bud" Baeslack, School of Engineering, RPI

Bud Peterson, Provost, RPI

John Tichy, Chairman, MANE Dept., RPI

Peter Caracappa, Institute Radiation Safety Officer, RPI

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Rec'd DCD
4/13/04

William Fahey, Environmental Health & Safety, RPI

Glenn Winters, RCF Director, RPI

Marc DelVecchio, Public Safety, RPI

**Mayor of the City of Schenectady
Schenectady, NY 12305**

**Dr. Paul J. Merges, Director
Bureau of Pesticides and Radiation
NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
50 Wolf Road, Room 498
Albany, NY 12233-7255**

**Mr. John P. Spath
NYS Energy Research and Development Authority
Corporate Plaza West
286 Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, NY 12203-6399**

**New York City Department of Health
Public Health Library
125 Worth St.
New York, NY 10013**

**Test, Research, and Training Reactor Newsletter
University of Florida
202 Nuclear Sciences Center
Gainesville, FL 32611**



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ATTN: Document Control Desk
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To Whom It May Concern:

On January 5-9, 2004, an NRC Inspection was conducted at the Reactor Critical Facility (RCF) of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). A Level IV violation was determined, for which this is the response as required by 10 CFR2.201.

The violation consisted of a failure to conduct a timely written re-qualification examination for one licensed Senior Reactor Operator. This was in violation of RPI's NRC-approved Reactor Operator Re-qualification Program.

The violation occurred due to the absence of a planning and scheduling tool designed to track completion of and due dates for the periodic requirements associated with the facility re-qualification program. This was compounded by individuals new to their position not undertaking a close review of their responsibilities.

In response to the violation, the Operations Supervisor prepared and conducted the required exam. The operator passed the exam.

Although a list of required periodic activities existed, it did not include activities from the re-qualification program. The periodic requirements from the Reactor Operator Re-qualification Program have been added to the list of required periodic activities. This is intended to be a tracking tool for due dates and completion of the listed activities. In addition, supervisory personnel responsible for the re-qualification program have reviewed their responsibilities. No other exams were found to be overdue.

Rensselaer considers all corrective actions completed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenn Winters".

Glenn Winters
Director, Reactor Critical Facility
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute