

June 23, 2006

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

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-156/2006-201

Dear Mr. Agasie:

On May 30 - June 1, 2006, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed an inspection at your University of Wisconsin Nuclear Reactor Laboratory. The enclosed report documents the inspection results, which were discussed on June 1, 2006, with you and other members of your staff.

The inspection examined activities conducted under your license as they relate to safety and compliance with the NRC's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. The inspector reviewed selected procedures and records, observed activities, and interviewed personnel. Based on the results of this inspection, no findings of significance were identified.

In accordance with Section 2.390, "Public inspections, exemptions, requests for withholding," of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response (if any) will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Johnny H. Eads, Branch Chief
Research and Test Reactors Branch B
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-156
License No. R-74

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report

cc w/encl: See next page

University of Wisconsin

Docket No. 50-156

cc:

University of Wisconsin
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Radiation Safety Officer
Chemical and Radiation Protection
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Chairman, Public Service
Commission of Wisconsin
Hill Farms State Office Building
Madison, WI 53702

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

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

Docket No: 50-156

License No: R-74

Report No: 50-156/2006-201

Licensee: University of Wisconsin

Facility: University of Wisconsin Nuclear Reactor Laboratory

Location: Madison, WI

Dates: May 30 - June 1, 2006

Inspector: Craig Bassett

Approved by: Johnny H. Eads, Branch Chief
Research and Test Reactors Branch B
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

University of Wisconsin
Nuclear Reactor Laboratory
Report No: 50-156/2006-201

The primary focus of this routine, announced inspection included onsite review of selected aspects of the licensee's Class II research reactor safety programs including: organizational structure and staffing, review and audit and design control functions, procedures, radiation protection, environmental protection, and transportation of radioactive materials since the last NRC inspection of these areas. The licensee's programs were acceptably directed toward the protection of public health and safety and in compliance with NRC requirements.

Organizational Structure and Staffing

- The facility organization and staffing remain in compliance with the requirements specified in the Technical Specifications (TSs).

Review and Audit and Design Control Functions

- The review and audit program was being conducted acceptably by the Reactor Safety Committee.
- The latest changes completed by the licensee were reviewed using the criteria specified in Section 50.59, "Changes, test, and experiments," of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* by the Reactor Safety Committee and determined to be acceptable.

Procedures

- Facility procedural review, revision, control, and implementation satisfied TS requirements.

Radiation Control

- Surveys were being completed and documented acceptably.
- Postings met the regulatory requirements.
- Personnel dosimetry was being worn as required and doses were well within NRC regulatory limits.
- Radiation monitoring equipment was being maintained and calibrated as required.
- Acceptable radiation protection training was being provided to staff members.
- The Radiation Protection and As Low As Reasonably Achievable Programs were being acceptably implemented.

Effluent and Environmental Monitoring

- Effluent monitoring satisfied license and regulatory requirements.
- Releases were within the specified regulatory and TS limits.

Transportation of Radioactive Materials

- Radioactive material produced in the reactor was transferred to the campus broad scope license and shipped under the auspices of that license, transferred to other authorized users on campus, or maintained at the reactor facility for use in labs in accordance with procedure.

REPORT DETAILS

Summary of Plant Status

The University of Wisconsin's (UW's) one megawatt research and test reactor continued to be operated in support of education, research, operator training, and various experiments. During this inspection, the reactor was not operated because the facility was in an extended outage. The outage was due to ongoing renovations of and modifications to the Mechanical Engineering Building that houses the reactor. The outage, which began May 5, 2006, was expected to last from 45 to 60 days.

1. Organizational Structure and Staffing

a. Inspection Scope (Inspection Procedure (IP) 69001)

The inspector reviewed the following regarding the licensee's organization and staffing to ensure that the requirements of Technical Specification (TS), Section 6.1, were being met:

- C organizational structure
- C management responsibilities
- C staffing requirements for the research reactor facility
- C Amendment No. 15 to Facility License No. R-74 dated October 3, 1991
- C University of Wisconsin Nuclear Reactor (UWNR) Laboratory Procedure Number (No.) 001, "Standing Operating Instructions," Revision (Rev.) 13, Reactor Safety Committee (RSC) approval dated May 8, 2006

b. Observations and Findings

Through discussions with licensee representatives, the inspector determined that management responsibilities and the organization at the UWNR Laboratory had not changed since the previous NRC inspection in the area of health physics in July 2004 (Inspection Report No. 50-156/2004-201). However, since that inspection, it was noted that the individual who had held the position of Research Reactor Manager was promoted to Reactor Supervisor. A former student was hired to be the Research Reactor Manager and another individual was hired as the Nuclear Reactor Technician/Electronics Technician.

Through review of records and logs and through discussions with licensee personnel, the inspector determined that the staffing at the facility was acceptable to support the current workload and ongoing activities. The staffing met the requirements of the TS. It was noted that the current staffing level was the minimum that would be appropriate for proper operation of the reactor.

c. Conclusions

The licensee's organization and staffing remain in compliance with the requirements specified in the TS.

2. Review and Audit and Design Control Functions

a. Inspection Scope (IP 69001)

The inspector reviewed the following to ensure that the audits and reviews stipulated in the requirements of TS Sections 6.1 and 6.2 were being completed:

- C Monthly Operation Summary Reports
- C Health Physics Monthly Nuclear Reactor Audit and Report
- C TS duties specified for the RSC including review and audit functions
- C RSC meeting minutes from November 2004 to present
- C Audits and reviews completed by Campus Safety Department and operations staff personnel
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 005, "UWNR Administrative Guide," Rev. 43, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 020, "UWNR Modification Checklist," Rev. 1, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 030, "Experiment Review Questionnaire Outline - Facility Familiarization," Rev. 6, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006

b. Observations and Findings

(1) Review and Audit Functions

The inspector reviewed the RSC's meeting minutes from November 2004 to the present. The meeting minutes showed that the committee met at the semiannual frequency required by the TS with a quorum being present. The inspector also noted that the RSC had considered the types of topics outlined by the TS. Review of the committee meeting minutes indicated the RSC provided appropriate guidance and direction for reactor operations, and ensured suitable use and oversight of the reactor.

It was noted that personnel from the UW Safety Department and operations personnel completed audits and reviews of the radiation protection and security programs and that the audits were completed within the time frame stipulated by TS. These audits and reviews were submitted to the RSC for review as required. The inspector noted that the audits and reviews, and the resulting findings, were acceptable. If the findings contained recommendations for possible changes, the licensee responded and took corrective actions as necessary.

(2) Design Change

Records and observations showed that the changes that had been proposed during 2005 and to present at the facility were acceptably reviewed in accordance with Section 50.59 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) and applicable administrative controls. These changes were then reviewed by the RSC, if required, determined to be acceptable, and approved when all RSC questions were resolved. None of the changes constituted a safety question or required a change to the TS.

Several facility modifications had been completed since the last inspection, many due to the current Mechanical Engineering Building renovation that was in progress. Two of the most recent changes involved installing new neutron measuring channels (LCR, Log N, and Picoammeters) and modifications to the Neutron Radiography Facility. UWNR Laboratory Modification Checklists were followed and completed as required. The licensee considered the criteria included in the revised 10 CFR 50.59 and concluded that the changes were acceptable changes under the regulations. The RSC reviewed and approved the changes as required. The change review and approval process appeared to be acceptable.

c. Conclusions

The review and audit program was being conducted acceptably by the RSC. The latest changes completed by the licensee were reviewed using the criteria specified in 10 CFR 50.59, reviewed by the RSC, and determined to be acceptable.

3. Procedures

a. Inspection Scope (IP 69001)

The inspector reviewed selected aspects of the following to verify that the licensee was complying with the requirements of TS Sections 6.5 and 6.6:

- C observation of procedure implementation
- C records for procedure changes and temporary changes
- C selected administrative and standard operating procedures
- C related logs and records documenting procedure implementation
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 001, "Standing Operating Instructions," Rev. 13, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 005, "UWNR Administrative Guide," Rev. 43, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006

b. Observations and Findings

Procedures were available for those tasks and items required by the TS and facility directives. Written changes were reviewed and approved by the RSC as required. The procedures were reviewed annually as required by procedure with the last review being completed November 4, 2005, for procedures numbered 150 - 200 and on May 8, 2006, for procedures numbered 001 - 149. It was noted that Special Orders, which were similar to Temporary Instructions or Procedures, were used to provide instructions that did not have permanent applicability.

Training of personnel on procedures and changes was acceptable. Through observation of health physics functions, the inspector verified that personnel conducted TS related activities in accordance with applicable procedures. Records showed that procedures for potential malfunctions and emergencies (e.g., radioactive releases, contaminations, and reactor equipment problems) had been developed and were implemented as required.

c. Conclusions

Procedural review, revision, control, and implementation satisfied TS requirements.

4. Radiation Protection

a. Inspection Scope (IP 69001)

The inspector reviewed the following to verify compliance with 10 CFR Part 20, TS Sections 4.2.3, 5.4, 6.6, and 6.7.2 and the applicable procedural requirements:

- C health physics survey records
- C radiological signs and posting
- C Annual Radiation Safety Audit - UW Reactor
- C the Radiation Protection and As Low As Reasonable Achievable (ALARA) Programs
- C UWNR dosimetry records for 2004 through the present
- C calibration and periodic check records for radiation monitoring instruments
- C UWNR Laboratory Form No. 031, "Procedure for Facility Familiarization," Rev. 3, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006
- C UWNR Laboratory Form No. 100, "Surveillance Activities," Rev. 40, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 117, "Air Monitor Operating Procedure," Rev. 17, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 118, "Area Radiation Monitor Operating Checks," Rev. 1, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 171, "Air Monitor Calibration and Records," Rev. 24, approval dated February 9, 2006 (by a Senior Reactor Operator (SRO))
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 172, "Sampling and Calculation Procedure - Air Particulate Activity Samples," Rev. 13, RSC approval dated November 4, 2005
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 177, "Procedure for Use and Calibration of Health Physics Instruments," Rev. 20, RSC approval dated November 4, 2005

The inspector also toured the licensee's facility and observed the use of dosimetry and radiation monitoring equipment. Licensee personnel were interviewed as well.

b. Observations and Findings

(1) Surveys

The inspector reviewed monthly radiation and contamination surveys of licensee controlled areas completed by Campus Safety Department personnel. The inspector also reviewed various weekly monitor checks and monthly general area radiation and contamination surveys conducted by reactor staff personnel. The surveys were of the Reactor Bay and other controlled and uncontrolled areas at the facility for the period from 2005 to present. The various periodic contamination and radiation surveys had been completed within the prescribed time frame required by procedure. Survey results were evaluated to ensure that

established action levels had not been exceeded. When readings or results were above these set levels, the licensee took adequate corrective actions.

During the inspection, the inspector accompanied a staff member during a routine radiation and contamination survey of the Reactor Bay. The inspector also conducted a radiation survey of the Reactor Bay area and other laboratory and storage areas and compared the readings detected with those found by the licensee. The results were comparable to those of the licensee and no anomalies were noted.

(2) Postings and Notices

The inspector reviewed the postings at the entrances to selected controlled areas including the Control Room, the Reactor Bay, and various other areas in the UWNR Laboratory. The postings were acceptable and indicated the radiation and contamination hazards present. Other postings also showed the industrial hygiene hazards present in the areas. The facility's radioactive material storage areas were properly posted. No unmarked radioactive material was noted. Copies of current notices to workers required by 10 CFR Part 19, including NRC Form-3, were posted in numerous locations in the facility including entrances/exits to the Reactor Bay and hallways.

(3) Dosimetry

The licensee used a National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) accredited vendor to process dosimeters monitoring exposure to the whole body from beta, gamma, and neutron radiation. The licensee used UW Personnel Radiation Dosimetry finger ring thermoluminescent dosimeters to monitor exposure to the extremities. (The UW Personnel Radiation Dosimetry Program was also NVLAP certified). Through direct observation, the inspector noted that dosimetry was acceptably used by facility personnel. An examination of the records for the past two years through April of 2006 showed that all exposures were well within NRC regulatory limits. The highest annual whole body exposure received by a single individual for the year 2004 was 41 millirem (mr) deep dose equivalent (DDE). The highest annual extremity exposure for 2004 was 194 mr shallow dose equivalent (SDE). The highest annual whole body exposure received by a single individual for the year 2005 was 27 mr DDE. The highest annual extremity exposure for 2005 was 215 mr SDE. No unusual (high) exposures had been recorded to date for 2006.

(4) Radiation Monitoring Equipment

The calibration of portable survey meters, as well as area radiation monitors, was typically completed by reactor staff personnel. About half of the portable instruments were also taken to a high range facility, operated by the UW Radiation and Calibration Laboratory, for calibration of the upper ranges. Calibration frequency met procedural and/or TS requirements and records were maintained as required. The inspector verified that the instruments that were stationed for use in the Reactor Bay and in adjacent labs had been calibrated and

were within the allowed calibration interval; i.e., they were due for calibration at the end of June 2006.

(5) Radiation Protection Program

The licensee's Radiation Protection Program was set forth in the UW Safety Department manual entitled "Radiation Safety for Radiation Workers," Rev. dated August 2005. The program included requirements that all personnel who performed work in association with radioactive material were to receive training in radiation protection, policies, procedures, requirements, and facilities. The program appeared to be acceptable and was being reviewed annually as required. The inspector also verified that the UWNR Laboratory Radiation Protection Program was being reviewed annually as well.

(6) ALARA Program

The ALARA Program was also outlined and established in the UW Safety Department manual "Radiation Safety for Radiation Workers" and in various UWNR Laboratory guidance documents and procedures. The ALARA program provided guidance for keeping doses ALARA and was consistent with the guidance in 10 CFR Part 20.

(7) Radiation Protection Training

As noted above, people who handled radioactive material, including licensee personnel, were required to receive training in radiation protection. This was accomplished by staff members attending a class, reading the manual, and successfully passing a written examination. The class consisted of a one-hour lecture, a two-hour demonstration/laboratory, and a one-hour open-book multiple-choice test. Those who successfully completed the course were given a certificate by the UW Safety Department. Completion of this training by reactor staff personnel was verified by Safety Department personnel as well as by the Reactor Director and/or the Reactor Supervisor.

The inspector reviewed documentation of the training provided to licensee staff members. The documents indicated that all current staff members had received the required training. The inspector determined that the personnel training program satisfied requirements in 10 CFR 19.12. It was noted that refresher training was provided on an annual basis.

Due to the modification and renovation work that was ongoing in the Mechanical Engineering Building and because the UWNR Laboratory was located therein, the laboratory was undergoing various upgrades. This required construction workers to work inside the licensee's radiologically controlled area. The licensee had developed a training program for the contractors and each was given a one-hour training class. Following completion of the class, the licensee also took color photographs of each individual and made a copy of their government issued identification cards; i.e., their driver's license. This was done so that the contractor could be identified each time they came to work in the controlled area and to verify that they had received the required training. The training appeared

to be adequate and the licensee was maintaining proper control over access to the restricted area as required.

(8) Facility Tours

The inspector toured the Control Room, Reactor Bay, adjacent laboratories, and support areas. Control of radioactive material and control of access to radiation areas was acceptable. As noted above, the inspector also conducted an independent radiation survey in various areas of the facility and determined that radiation levels recorded on licensee survey maps were representative and accurate.

c. Conclusions

The inspector determined that the Radiation Protection and ALARA Programs satisfied regulatory requirements because: 1) surveys were being completed and documented acceptably, 2) postings met regulatory requirements, 3) personnel dosimetry was being worn as required and doses were well within the NRC's regulatory limits, 4) radiation monitoring equipment was being maintained and calibrated as required, and, 5) acceptable radiation protection training was being provided.

5. Effluent and Environmental Monitoring

a. Inspection Scope (IP 69001)

The inspector reviewed the following to verify compliance with the requirements of 10 CFR Part 20 and TS Sections 3.4, 4.2.3, 5.4, 6.6, and 6.7.2:

- C liquid release records for the period from 2004 to 2005
- C airborne release records documented in the UWNR Laboratory Monthly Operations Summary Reports provided to the RSC for the period from November 2004 to the present
- C licensee Annual Reports for reporting periods: July 2003 - June 2004 and July 2004 - June 2005
- C UWNR Laboratory Form No. 100, "Surveillance Activities," Rev. 40, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 100C, "Procedure for Gross Gamma Counting of Water Samples," Rev. 19, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 109, "Procedure for Liquid Waste Disposal," Rev. 22, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 117, "Air Monitor Operating Procedure," Rev. 17, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 118, "Area Radiation Monitor Operating Checks," Rev. 1, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 171, "Air Monitor Calibration and Records," Rev. 24, approval dated February 9, 2006 (by SRO)
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 172, "Sampling and Calculation Procedure - Air Particulate Activity Samples," Rev. 13, RSC approval dated November 4, 2005

b. Observation and Findings

The inspector reviewed the calibration records of the area and stack monitoring systems. These systems had been calibrated annually according to procedure. The weekly start-up check records for the monitoring equipment were also reviewed. Corrective actions were taken if there were problems with the monitoring system noted during the start-up checks.

The inspector also reviewed the records documenting liquid releases to the environment for the past year. The inspector determined that liquid releases were approved by the SRO after analyses indicated that the releases would meet regulatory requirements for discharge into the sanitary sewer. This was in accordance with procedure and the results of the releases were acceptably documented in the Annual Operating Reports.

The inspector determined that particulate and gaseous releases continued to be monitored as required, tracked and totaled, and were acceptably documented in the annual reports. The airborne concentrations of the gaseous releases were within the concentrations stipulated in 10 CFR Part 20, Appendix B, Table 2. Also, the dose rate to the public, as a result of the gaseous releases, was well below the dose constraint specified in 10 CFR 20.1101(d) of 10 millirem per year. Observation of the facility by the inspector indicated no new potential release paths.

On-site and off-site gamma radiation monitoring was accomplished using various environmental optically stimulated luminescent dosimeters in accordance with the applicable procedures. The data indicated that there were no measurable doses above any regulatory limits. These results were also acceptably reported in the Annual Operating Reports for Fiscal Years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005

c. Conclusions

Effluent monitoring satisfied license and regulatory requirements and releases were within the specified regulatory and TS limits.

6. Transportation

a. Inspection Scope (IP 86740)

The inspector reviewed the following to verify compliance with regulatory and procedural requirements for shipping or transferring licensed material:

- C selected records of radioactive material transfers for 2004 and to present
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 005, "UWNR Administrative Guide," Rev. 43, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 023, "Procedure for Receipt of Radioactive Material Shipments," Rev. 4, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006
- C UWNR Laboratory Form No. 130, "Request for Isotope Production," Rev. 14, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006
- C UWNR Laboratory Procedure No. 131, "Production of Radioisotopes in Nuclear Reactor," Rev. 20, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006

C UWNR Laboratory Form No. 134, "Request and Authorization for Services of the UW Reactor," Rev. 3, RSC approval dated May 8, 2006

b. Observations and Findings

Records showed that radioactive material produced in the reactor, and destined to be shipped off site, continued to be transferred to UW Central Ordering, Receiving, and Distribution Office (CORD) through the UW Safety Department's Chemical and Radiation Safety Office. Material transfers were documented on UWNR Laboratory Form No. 130, "Request for Isotope Production." These radioactive materials were then shipped by CORD under the campus broad scope license, UW Material License No. 48-09843-18.

Material to be used by UW authorized personnel was also transferred to the broad scope license and distributed by CORD. A list of UW authorized personnel was maintained by the licensee and documented on UWNR Laboratory Form No. 134, "Request and Authorization for Services of the UW Reactor." The program for radioactive material transfer and transport was consistent with license and procedural requirements. The documents indicated the transfer of material had been signed for by UW Safety Department personnel and distributed to authorized individuals as required.

The other radioactive materials produced in the reactor were maintained under the reactor license for use in laboratories, used for re-irradiation, or held for decay.

c. Conclusions

Radioactive material produced in the reactor was transferred to the campus broad scope license and shipped under the auspices of that license, transferred to other authorized users on campus, or maintained at the reactor facility for use in laboratories in accordance with procedure.

7. Exit Meeting Summary

The inspection scope and results were summarized on June 1, 2006, with licensee representatives. The inspector discussed the findings for each area reviewed. No dissenting comments were received from the licensee.

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Licensee

R. Agasie, Reactor Director
K. Austin, Research Reactor Manager
M. Blanchard, Reactor Supervisor
C. Edwards, Nuclear Reactor Technician/Electronics Technician
B. Schmitt, Reactor Operator

INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED

IP 69001 Class II Research and Test Reactors
IP 86740 Inspection of Transportation Activities

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

Opened

None

Closed

None

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

ALARA	As low as reasonably achievable
10 CFR	Title 10 of the <i>Code of Federal Regulations</i>
CORD	Central Ordering, Receiving, and Distribution Office
DDE	Deep Dose Equivalent
IP	Inspection Procedure
mr	millirem
No.	Number
NRC	Nuclear Regulatory Commission
NVLAP	National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program
Rev.	Revision
RSC	Reactor Safety Committee
SDE	Shallow Dose Equivalent
SRO	Senior Reactor Operator
TS	Technical Specifications
UW	University of Wisconsin
UWNR	University of Wisconsin Nuclear Reactor