CE-7344

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
631 PARK AVENUE
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

MAY 13 1976

General Electric Company
Attention: Mr. Otto Klima
Vice President
Re-entry and Environmental Systems
Division
3198 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101

License Nos. 37-02906-06
SUB-831
Inspection No. 76-01

Reference: Your letter dated April 30, 1976
In response to our letter dated April 15, 1976

Gentlemen:

Thank you for informing us of the corrective and preventive actions you documented in response to our correspondence. These actions will be examined during a subsequent inspection of your licensed program.

With respect to your answer to Item 1, you are advised that 10 CFR 20.203 (c)(3) requires that the lock on the gate must be established in such a way that no individual will be prevented from leaving the high radiation area.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Paul R. Nelson

Paul R. Nelson, Chief
Fuel Facility and Materials Safety
Branch

cc: J. R. McFadden
Industrial Safety Engineering

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GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY . . . . . 3198 CHESTNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19101, Phone (215) 823-1000

RE-ENTRY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
SYSTEMS DIVISION

April 30, 1976

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pa. 19406

Attention: Paul R. Nelson

Dear Sir:

This is in reply to the Notice of Violation(s), based on the NRC inspections conducted on March 8, 1976 and April 6, 1976. The inspections were examinations of activities authorized by NRC License Nos. 37-02006-06 and SUB-831.

1. An infraction was cited for failure to control access to the high radiation area in the Scan Room of Building 100, King of Prussia, by the employment of any of the methods described in 10 CFR 20.203(c)(2).

The Scan Room (approximately 400 sq. ft. of floor space) contains a shielded detector assembly in one corner of the room which is used to measure the radioactivity of nosetips containing tantalum-182 (200 millicuries max.); the nosetip is unshielded during the scanning process and thus a high radiation area exists around the nosetip (circular area with radius of 3.8 feet = 45.4 sq. ft.); the nosetip being scanned is situated in a corner of the room and is about two feet from each wall; these walls are earth-backed and approximately twelve inches thick (poured concrete).

On a third side of the nosetip and approximately two feet distant from it, a six foot barrier of solid cinder block had been erected with a thickness of eight inches.

The fourth side of the scanner was open to the interior of the room. There was also a two foot opening between the cinder block wall and one of the earth backed walls.

Upon receipt of the Notice of Violation, scanning activities were suspended, and will not be resumed until compliance with 10 CFR 20.203 (c)(2) is accomplished.

By May 27, 1976, a permanent wooden barrier will be erected in the two foot opening between the earth backed wall and the cinder block wall, and a wooden gate (equipped with a lock) will be placed on the fourth side (presently open to the interior of the room) of the scanner; then, the scanner will be completely enclosed and a radiation survey will be performed to verify that the high radiation area does not extend beyond this enclosure.

The gate will be maintained locked except during periods when access to the scanner is required; in addition, when the scan operator is not in attendance and a nosetip is being scanned automatically, the door to the Scan Room will be locked (this was the standard procedure in the past).

High radiation signs are, and have been, permanently posted within the area.

2. An infraction was cited for dispensing licensed material in powder form outside of an approved hood. This infraction occurred during the fourth quarter of 1975. As you noted, we identified this infraction and took corrective action prior to the inspections.

The persons performing the work with this material have been advised again of the necessity of following the written procedures for performing all dust-producing operations (including dispensing) with this licensed material in an approved hood and of the necessity of reporting accidental spills.

This licensed material has a distinctive color, and a visual check for evidence of spills outside the hood are now conducted weekly; in addition; smears are obtained monthly in the area outside the hood and are analysed for radioactivity.

Furthermore, the handling procedure has been rewritten to include more specificity in the area of required precautions and the rationale therefor.

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3. A deficiency was cited for having a container of licensed material mislabeled as to its contents, in the Scan Room of Building 100, King of Prussia.

The operator using this licensed material has been advised of this deficiency and of 10 CFR 20.203(f)(1) and (2), and this container is now correctly labeled as to its contents.

This facility will be inspected with greater frequency in the future to assure continued compliance.

If additional information or actions are required, please advise me.

Yours truly,

J. R. McFadden, Health Physicist
Industrial Safety Engineering

/ktd