



REED COLLEGE

January 30, 2014

REACTOR FACILITY

3203 Southeast

Woodstock Boulevard

Portland, Oregon

97202-8199

telephone

503/777-7222

fax

503/777-7274

email

reactor@reed.edu

web

http://reactor.reed.edu

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

RE: Reply to Notice of Violation
Docket No. 50-288
License No. R-112

The Notice of Violation dated Jan 14, 2014 states that the following Technical Specifications (TS) were violated:

- TS 6.1.3, Staffing, which requires, in part, that the minimum staffing when the reactor is operating shall be a licensed reactor operator in the control room.
- TS 1, Definitions, which defines the reactor as operating whenever it is not shut down or secured.

1. The licensee self-reported this violation on Nov. 18, 2013 to the NRC Operations Center with a follow-up letter to the Document Control Desk dated Nov. 25, 2013. A root cause investigation was initiated as required by internal procedures. This investigation indicated that distraction at the end of a reactor power run resulted in the key being left in the console unattended. The control room was locked and no reactivity manipulations took place while the key was unattended.

2. The corrective action taken to date is retraining.

3. Over the years, Reed College has introduced actions designed to prevent this and similar events from occurring. These actions include: name tags, swinging doors, signage and lights interlocked with the key switch. Over time, these stimuli loose their effectiveness. Although several engineered solutions have been discussed none of these solutions are fail-safe and still fall into the realm of audio and visual stimulus. However, a new key control system will also serve as a visual reminder to secure the console key.

4. By August 29, 2014, a new key control system will be installed. Additionally, we will continue to evaluate Radio-frequency identification (RFID) and proximity systems for applicability and compatibility.

Respectfully,

Melinda Krahenbuhl, Ph.D.
Director, Reed Research Reactor

7 E 01
NRR