



The Dow Chemical Company
Midland, Michigan 48667

February 22, 2018

Document Control Desk
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is the annual report for The Dow TRIGA Research Nuclear Reactor, Docket No. 50-264. If you have any questions, please contact me at (989) 638-6185.

Paul J. O'Connor
Facility Director
Dow TRIGA Research Reactor

Enclosure

CC: Geoff Wertz; USNRC
Wayde Konze, 1897
Siaka Yusuf, 1602
Bryan Haskins, 1602
James Weldy, 1803
Michael Buchmann, 1897
Paul O'Connor, 1897

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NRR

DOW TRIGA RESEARCH REACTOR

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There was one US NRC inspection in 2017 during which all aspects of the Dow TRIGA Research Reactor programs were examined. There were no violations found. The annual peer review audit was conducted by Mr. Joseph Talnagi of Ohio State University (Retired) in December of 2017. The audit also examined all aspects of the Dow TRIGA nuclear reactor facility programs and there were no safety concerns or non-compliances with US NRC requirements found.

The regular in-house audits of the radiation protection program, safety and housekeeping, and records were also performed by the Dow Chemical Company Radiation Safety Officer and there were no issues found.

There were no significant changes to the facility during 2017. There were also no changes to the Reactor Operation Committee membership during the year, 2017.

A. Staff, Licenses, and Training

The current reactor staff members are:

P. J. O'Connor	Facility Director
S. O. Yusuf	Reactor Supervisor
B. D. Haskins	Assistant Reactor Supervisor
N. J. Goodman	Trainee
T. A. Behmlander	Observer/Trainee

There are two Senior Reactor Operators and their operator licenses are current. Dr. Yusuf renewed his Senior Reactor Operator's license in 2012. Mr. Haskins renewed his Senior Reactor Operator's license in 2012. They are due for renewal during the third quarter of 2018.

The annual re-qualification program was carried out according to the NRC approved program, dated September 6, 2011. All operators are up-to-date in their quarterly re-qualification participations, including operating experience, participation in emergency preparedness drills, Reactor Operation Committee meetings, operating examinations, and the annual fuel inventory.

Operation of the reactor is an important part of the training program, thus, the reactor is operated on an as-needed basis which results in numerous operations. Each operation involves reactivity manipulations, use of the control console, placement and retrieval of samples and handling of radioactive materials. The reactor was operated for a total of 256 hours during 2017 by the two Senior Reactor Operators.

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The ROC is currently composed of the following staff members:

W. V. Konze	ROC Chairman
P. J. O'Connor	Facility Director
S. O. Yusuf	Reactor Supervisor
J. R. Weldy	Radiation Safety Officer
M. E. Buchmann	Process Analytical Global Leader

Dr. Konze is the first level manager for the facility on behalf of Analytical Sciences and serves as the chairman for the ROC. Dr. O'Connor is the level 2 manager and the facility director. Dr. Yusuf is the level 3 manager and the reactor supervisor for the facility. Yusuf is the reactor operations staff member of the ROC. Mr. Weldy is the Dow Midland location Radiation Safety Officer as well as the TRIGA Radiation Safety Officer and reports through the Dow Environmental, Health and Safety department. Mr. M. E. Buchmann is a Process Analytical Global Leader and reports through the Dow Global Process Analytical. Mr. Buchmann serves as the outside member, (neither members of reactor operation nor members of analytical sciences), of the ROC.

B. Reactor Operating Experience

The reactor was operated for 1,440 Megawatt-days (an increase from last year) during 2017 for a total of 256 hours (An increase of 5% from last year). Operational experience is being optimized as indicated by these numbers. The main purpose of operations at the Dow facility is to perform neutron activation analysis. About 7,100 samples were irradiated in 2017, up by 28% from last year, 2016 and consistent with the number of licensed operators. An increase of only 5% in hours of operation followed with a 28% increase in number of experiments show a net productivity increase of at least 23% for the Dow TRIGA Research Reactor.

C. Major Changes

There were no changes made to the facility in 2017.

D. Unscheduled Shutdowns

There were 10 unscheduled shutdowns (scrams) during 2017, slightly down from 2015 and 2016 numbers. All of these scrams were due to a computer function, specifically, the DIS064 device which processes the signals into the DAC computer. Even though this is only an operational nuisance and rarely happens at steady power, the vendor has been requested to work on a solution to the situation.

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E. Major Preventive and Corrective Maintenance of Safety Significance

There was no maintenance which had safety significance, performed during 2017. There were however, 15 preventive and corrective maintenance items during 2017. These were related to replacements of water purification cartridges, adjustments on the NM1000 safety channel, adjustments on the NP1000 safety channel, Replacement of two display monitors, Replacement of air velocity probes, Continuous Air Monitor Filter replacement and Heat exchanger routine valve inspections.

F. Radioactive Effluents

The only radioactive material normally released to the environment from the facility is argon-41. This is produced from activation of the natural argon dissolved in the pool water and subsequently escapes from the pool into the reactor room and from there to the outside of the building. Ar-41 is also produced from the natural argon present in the air used to transport samples from a laboratory into a terminus in the core of the reactor.

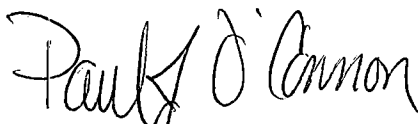
Overall, any release, after dilution is estimated to be less than 25% of the allowed or recommended maximum concentration in 10CFR20.

G. Radiation Exposures

Radiation exposures received by facility personnel and visitors are monitored using film badges and thermoluminescent detectors. No persons have received exposures approaching 25% of those allowed or recommended in 10CFR20.

H. Outside Sampling and Monitoring

There were no incidences requiring outside sampling or monitoring during the year 2017.



P. J. O'Connor
Facility Director
Dow TRIGA Research Reactor
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