

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

REGION V

Report No. 50-70/79-01
Docket No. 50-70 License No. TR-1 Safeguards Group _____
Licensee: General Electric Company
Vallecitos Nuclear Center
Pleasanton, California 94566
Facility Name: General Electric Test Reactor (GETR)
Inspection at: GETR
Inspection conducted: March 27-29, 1979
Inspectors: *H. L. Canter* *5/4/79*
H. L. Canter, Reactor Inspector Date Signed
G. W. Johnston *5/4/79*
G. W. Johnston, Reactor Inspector Date Signed

Date Signed
Approved By: *B. H. Faulkenberry* *5/4/79*
B. H. Faulkenberry, Chief, Reactor Projects Date Signed
Section 2

Summary:

Inspection on March 27-29, 1979 (Report No. 50-70/79-01)

Areas Inspected: Routine, unannounced inspection of organization, logs, and records; review and audit; experiments; review of containment leak rate test results; and independent inspection effort. The inspection involved 21 regular inspector-hours by two NRC inspectors.

Results: No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified by the inspectors.

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DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

- *P. Ketchel, Manager, GETR Operations
- *C. Leighty, Manager, NTR
- *E. Strain, Nuclear Safety Engineer
- *D. Smith, Reactor Analyst

The inspectors talked with other licensee employees including reactor operators and engineering personnel.

*Denotes those attending the exit interview.

2. Organization, Logs and Records

The following records were examined and discussed with licensee representatives to determine whether these records and logs were maintained in accordance with regulatory requirements.

- a. Process Panel Logs (September 1978 - March 1979)
- b. Routine Area Patrol Logs (September 7, 1978 - March 27, 1979)
- c. Shift Supervisor's Logs (August 28, 1978 - March 27, 1979)
- d. Control Operator's Logs (August 22, 1978 - March 27, 1979)
- e. Stackgas Monitor Chart (February 1978)
- f. Primary Water Conductivity (February 1979)
- g. Equipment Malfunction Reports (September 1978 - March 1979)

Additionally, the inspector verified through discussions with licensee representatives that the licensee's operation organization, maintenance organization, and staff organization appear consistent with regulatory requirements.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

3. Review and Audit

The licensee's review and audit program was examined for the period of September 7, 1978 to March 27, 1979. The coverage of the examination included membership and meeting frequency of the Vallecitos Technical Safety Committee (VISC); design change review, approval, and implementation; experiment review; and audits.

The following Change Authorizations (CA's) were examined.

- a. 671 - Diesel Fuel Tank Level Alarm
- b. 672 - Bypass Switch Modification
- c. 673 - Complete Bypass Switch Modification
- d. 674 - Removal of Reactor Head Switches
- e. 677 - Missile Shield Seismic Restraints
- f. 680 - Heat Exchanger 101 Shielding

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

4. Experiments

Because of the extended shutdown currently in effect, no experiments had been conducted during the period covered by the inspection.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

5. Independent Inspection Effort

The inspector toured the facility, observed control room operations, and discussed operating practices with the reactor analyst and plant personnel.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

6. Review of Containment Leak Rate Test Results

The inspector reviewed the final data for the 1979 containment leak rate test. The licensee had to conduct a retest after the first test failed with a leak rate of 3.14 weight % per day. The licensee's staff surmised that the leakage was through the reactor building ventilation valves. After cleaning the valve seats, the licensee resumed the test and subsequently had a resultant leak rate of 1.55 weight % per day versus the acceptance criteria of 1.86 weight % per day. An independent calculation by the inspector using a mass plot technique showed a leak rate of 1.63 weight % per day which is within five percent of the licensee's figure.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

7. Exit Interview

The inspectors met with licensee representatives (denoted in Paragraph 1) at the conclusion of the inspection on March 29, 1979. The inspectors summarized their inspection findings. No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified within the scope of this inspection.

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