

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION  
MEDICAL PRODUCTS DIVISION  
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May 3, 1980

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

Dear Sir:

On May 3, 1980, the poison section of a control rod assembly was found separated from the rod drive in the Union Carbide Nuclear Reactor, License Number R-81. This is reportable pursuant to Technical Specification 6.5.3.a.(3)(b) since that rod was not within 10% of the mean rod position as required by limiting condition for operation 3.6.c.(2). Mr. D. Capton was duly informed by telephone today.

The failure did not comprise the shutdown margin since the separated portion was confined to the core. As expected, the resulting flux tilt was insufficient to cause boiling. The failed rod has been replaced and the reactor returned to power; it is presently undergoing hot cell examination. Until the remaining control rods are inspected for incipient failures, their integrity will be assured by closely monitoring gang position at power and verifying a reactivity response to rod movement.

Yours very truly,

*Marcus H. Voth*

Marcus H. Voth  
Manager  
Nuclear Operations

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