Radiation Center

Oregon State University

Corvallis, Oregon 97331 (503) 754-2341

June 18, 1980

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region V
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
1990 N. California Boulevard
Walnut Creek Plaza, Suite 202
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Gentlemen:

RE: Docket #50-243, License #R-106

In response to your telephone call on Friday, June 13, 1980, with regard to the incident that happened at our facility on May 20, 1980, I am pleased to provide you with the following items of information:

1. In order to prevent recurrence of the type of incident that happened on May 20, 1980, a sub-committee of the Reactor Operation Committee has met several times to thoroughly investigate the incident in question and more recently has reached a decision to amend our Reactor Operation Procedures, OSTROP 4. The amendment involves the addition of a special section entitled "Operational Anomolies," and calls for immediate suspension of operation of the OSTR after observation of any unusual operational anomolies. If this section had been in effect on May 20, the operator would not have performed an additional pulse following the abnormally large pulse.

2. The amended OSTROP 4 became effective soon after the recommendation was concurred by the sub-committee and the reactor administrator. A copy of the amended language in OSTROP 4 is herewith enclosed for your reference.

I will request the Reactor Operation Committee to approve this amendment retroactively in their next meeting.

A0383
A020
S
1/1

8006240389

It is my sincere hope that the foregoing provided information will meet with your favorable reaction.

Sincerely yours,

C. H. Wang
Reactor Administrator

CHW/ef
Enclosure
cc: J.C. Ringle
A.G. Johnson
T.V. Anderson
USNRC, Washington, D.C. (2) Document Management Branch
ODOE

OSTROP 4.0 Reactor Operations Procedures

Scope: The OSTROP 4 series procedures are given to direct the operator in the approved sequences and methods of operating the reactor controls. OSTROP 4 series procedures cannot be pursued until OSTROP 3 series procedures have been satisfied.

General Information: The OSTR is a versatile research reactor and can be operated in numerous configurations utilizing several different control rod sequences. It should be pointed out that the reactor is not restricted to a specific start-up sequence or control rod configuration. As a rule, these operations procedures are followed resulting in a standard format for routine operation (but should not be considered restrictive in precluding other start-up or operational configurations).

Therefore, after the start-up core excess has been taken, the operational configuration can deviate from the procedural format (with the supervisors permission) to accommodate an approved experiment.

Operational Anomalies: In the event the console operator observes: (a) any significant variation of measured values from a corresponding predicted or previously measured value of safety-connected operating characteristics, or (b) any other unusual or abnormal condition which may affect safe reactor operation, he will:

(a.) Immediately scram the reactor.

(b.) Notify the Reactor Supervisor.

The Reactor Supervisor will consult with the Reactor Administrator, Assistant Reactor Administrator, the Senior Health Physicist, and/or other Senior Reactor Operators regarding this observed variation. The Reactor Administrator will determine: (a) whether the Reactor Operations Committee should be notified regarding this event, (b) whether the USNRC should be notified, and (c) whether the reactor may resume operation.

4.1 Core Excess

The excess reactivity will be measured each morning before routine operations begin. The excess will give a broad overall check on any gross changes that may have been made since the last operation. For routine core excess measurement, the control rod configuration and power level will be: