



REACTOR FACILITY

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May 13, 1980

Donald J. Skovholt  
Assistant Director for Operating Reactors  
Directorate of Licensing  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Concerning: Docket No. 50-288  
License No. R-112

Gentlemen:

I request a change in the technical specifications for the Reed TRIGA Reactor (Mark I). The change is a rewording of paragraph D.2 to read as follows:

The pool water shall be sampled for conductivity at least monthly. Conductivity averaged over a month shall not exceed two micromhos per centimeter.

The change in the above proposed reading is different only in the first sentence where our current technical specifications call for weekly sampling.

Up to the past six months our interpretation of the current wording had been "...at least weekly when the reactor is operational." A recent NRC Inspection and Enforcement pointed out to us that this was not legally correct. There are infrequent periods of time which exceed one week when the reactor is not placed in operation at all. One such typical period of time would be over the Christmas holidays.

To support our proposed change I offer the following safety considerations:

1. At no time during the past seven years has the conductivity ever exceeded 1.5 micromhos per centimeter nor has it ever gone below 1.2 micromhos per centimeter.
2. This stable conductivity has also been achieved without a change in our ion exchange resin during the past seven years.
3. The standard operating procedures which require the conductivity to be checked every time that the reactor is run for more than fifteen minutes will

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continue in effect. As a result the only time when the pool water would not be sampled for conductivity would be during those infrequent (perhaps twice a year) times such as vacations.

If you should need any more detail, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,



L. B. Church  
Director

LBC/sho

cc: NRC Region V