



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

JUN 4 1980

Docket No. 50-116

Iowa State University
ATTN: Dr. George Burnet, Head
Department of Nuclear
Engineering
Ames, IA 50010

Gentlemen:

This refers to the inspection conducted by Miss R. J. Greer of this office on May 15-16, 1980, of activities at Iowa State Nuclear Engineering Laboratory authorized by NRC Operating License No. R-59 and to the discussion of our findings with Dr. Hendrickson and Dr. Sobbotka at the conclusion of the inspection.

The enclosed copy of our inspection report identifies areas examined during the inspection. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, observations, and interviews with personnel.

No items of noncompliance with NRC requirements were identified during the course of this inspection.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosed inspection report will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room, except as follows. If this report contains information that you or your contractors believe to be proprietary, you must apply in writing to this office, within twenty days of your receipt of this letter, to withhold such information from public disclosure. The application must include a full statement of the reasons for which the information is considered proprietary, and should be prepared so that proprietary information identified in the application is contained in an enclosure to the application.

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We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this inspection.

Sincerely,

A. B. Davis, Chief
Fuel Facility and
Materials Safety Branch

Enclosure: IE Inspection
Report No. 50-116/80-01

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

REGION III

Report No. 80-01

Docket No. 50-116

License No. R-59

Licensee: Iowa State University of Science
and Technology
Ames, IA 50010

Facility Name: Nuclear Engineering Laboratory

Inspection At: Site

Inspection Conducted: May 15-16, 1980

Inspector: *R. J. Greer*
R. J. Greer

Approved By: *T. H. Essig*
T. H. Essig, Chief
Environmental and Special
Project Section

June 2, 1980

6/2/80

Inspection Summary

Inspection on May 15-16, 1980 (Report No. 50-116/80-01)

Areas Inspected: Routine inspection of emergency planning, including an examination of implementing procedures, coordination with support agencies, emergency kits and monitoring equipment, emergency detection alarms, training, and tests and drills. The inspection involved 12 inspector-hours on site by one NRC inspector.

Results: For the areas inspected, no items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

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DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

*R. Hendrickson, Reactor Supervisor
E. Plettner, Reactor Operator
*E. Sobbotka, Radiation Safety Officer, Radiation Services Group (RSG)
R. Parks, Chief, Ames Fire Department
L. Furman, Director, Student Health Services
M. Voss, Director of Health Physics, Ames Laboratory
D. Drake, Chief, Security and Traffic Control

*Indicates those present at exit interview

2. Emergency Plan

The licensee has an internally approved Emergency Plan, entitled "Emergency Plan for Nuclear Engineering Laboratory, Iowa State University." The plan was first written in 1974 and has been reviewed and updated annually by a three person committee appointed by the Reactor Supervisor. Any recommendations for major revisions made by the committee are submitted for approval to the Radiation Safety Committee. The plan currently in effect was revised October 11, 1978. As a part of the licensee's application for license renewal, a plan conforming to Regulatory Guide 2.6 was submitted in September 1979. Revisions to the plan are sent to plan holders by a student reactor operator.

3. Coordination with Support Agencies

The inspector visited the Iowa State University Student Health Services, Security and Traffic Control, Radiation Safety Group, and the Ames Fire Department, to discuss arrangements made for assistance and backup support in the event of an emergency at the Iowa State Nuclear Engineering Laboratory (NEL). Coordination remains as described in a previous inspection report. ^{1/} However, in response to an item discussed in the previous inspection, ^{2/} the inspector discussed with the Fire Chief problems with coordination with the licensee revealed during the last inspection. The fire department now has a current emergency plan and coordination now appears to be adequate. The inspector has no more questions concerning this matter.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

1/ IE Inspection Report No. 50-116/80-02.

2/ Ibid 4.

4. Emergency Kits and Monitoring Equipment

The licensee maintains portable monitoring equipment and an emergency locker in 9 Sweeney Hall, which is the licensee's emergency relocation center. The RSG also maintains an emergency kit and portable monitoring equipment in the Nuclear Engineering Laboratory Building. The inspector inventoried the emergency equipment and did not notice any items missing. The inspector noted that the licensee conducts an inventory of emergency supplies annually after the drill. The inspector has no more questions concerning this item.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

5. Emergency Detection Alarms

A licensee representative stated that automatic fire alarms are not available at the NEL; however, the licensee has area radiation monitors which alarm at pre-selected levels corresponding to reactor operation and shut down. The licensee also has an evacuation alarm which is actuated by switches located in the licensee's emergency locker in the NEL and at three other locations around the NEL. This alarm is tested weekly.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

6. Training

All persons assigned keys to the Nuclear Engineering Laboratory are trained at least annually in the emergency procedures, protective action levels, instruction and the use and locations of fire extinguishers, contamination control, the evacuation procedures and use of fire threat and radiation checklists. The inspector reviewed training records for 1978 and 1979 and verified that training was completed. Individuals receiving keys to the laboratory between training sessions are briefed in the emergency plan as soon as practicable.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

7. Tests and Drills

Drills are conducted annually by Nuclear Engineering Laboratory personnel and include participation by various support groups. The inspector reviewed records of drills conducted on October 17, 1978, and November 7, 1979. The licensee's support groups participated in these drills. No major problems were noted during the critique of the drills.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

8. Exit Interview

The inspector met with the licensee representatives denoted in Paragraph 1 at the conclusion of the inspection on May 16, 1980, and summarized the purpose and scope of the inspection and its findings.