



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ROLLA

May 20, 1981

School of Mines and Metallurgy

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Docket No. 50-123

Mr. R. F. Heishman, Acting Director
Division of Resident and Projects Inspection
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Mr. Heishman:

In reply to your letter of April 16, 1981 concerning the deficiency in the operator training records for Mr. Carl Barton, Reactor Operator at the UMR Reactor Facility, I have reviewed the situation with Dr. Edwards and he has provided the following in response:

In general, each operator is responsible for his own records and in reviewing the situation here we find that the operator was not the reactor operator of record either at the beginning or end of the scheduled startup, although he had operated during a startup. Also, during the period of time in question, the reactor was down for an extended period for maintenance. While these are not excuses for the lack of documentation, we would like to put the problem in the proper perspective.

We have reviewed this problem with each licensed individual and they are now aware of the need for the complete records on their reactor startup. I have also increased the frequency of review of the reactor re-qualification and training records from semi-annual to quarterly. The reactor operator in question did undergo a special performance evaluation in which he was observed during startup, power changes and shut-down, and has operated during the experimental use of the facility for one of the undergraduate laboratories. He had to manipulate the reactor through several power changes and has operated the reactor in a complete and satisfactory manner.

We believe that the increased frequency of review will preclude any reoccurrence of the problem of insufficient records in this area. In general, we want to thank you for the thorough inspection and for bringing this item to our attention. We endeavor to operate a safe and useful facility. We find the periodic review by the members of the NRC very useful in keeping our facility in tip-top shape.

I believe Dr. Edwards phoned you on 5/19/81 concerning the delay in this reply which was due to his illness.

Sincerely,

Ernest M. Spokes
Acting Dean

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