

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

*R. G. Gilly*  
*new meeting*

TO : Eber R. Price, Director  
Division of State and Licensee Relations

DATE: NOV 19 1964

FROM : L. Kornblith, Jr., Assistant Director  
for Reactors  
Division of Compliance

*L. Kornblith, Jr.*

SUBJECT: U. S. ARMY MATERIALS RESEARCH AGENCY  
DOCKET NO. 50-47

*I-1*

ATTN: R. G. Page

Attached is a report by our field inspectors of a visit to the subject facility on September 28-29, 1964. The principal results of this visit have been discussed with Mr. Marvin Gaske, DRL. No items of noncompliance were noted.

It was observed that during reactor startup there is little indicated neutron multiplication while control rods are being withdrawn for the approach to critical. This apparently results from the existing source geometry in which the beryllium reflector elements are relied upon to provide the source neutrons. The discrete neutron source was removed from the core about three years ago and operations have proceeded in this fashion since that time. The licensee indicated that this matter would be reviewed. We are of the opinion that the existing situation is not optimum and that safety of operations could be improved by improving the neutron source geometry.

Attachment:  
CO Rpt No. 47/64-2  
by J. R. Sears & R. T. Carlson  
dtd 10/10/64

- Distribution:
- J. R. Sears, Region I (3)
  - M. L. Ernst, Region II
  - H. D. Thornburg, Region III
  - J. W. Flora, Region IV
  - R. H. Engelken, Region V
  - R. T. Carlson, CO:HQ
  - M. M. Mann, REG, w/o att.
  - C. A. Nelson, INS, w/o att.
  - R. L. Doan, DRL
  - E. G. Case, DRL
  - R. S. Boyd, DRL (2)
  - D. J. Skovholt, DRL
  - DRL Files

8204210497 811005  
PDR FOIA  
KABAT-261-311 PDR

