



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION IV  
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000  
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

50-128  
DQR:HQ

October 6, 1978

Docket No. 50-128

Texas A&M University  
ATTN: Dr. Robert R. Berg, Director  
Office of University Research  
College Station, Texas 77843

Gentlemen:

This refers to the inspection conducted by Blaine Murray of this office during September 11-15, 1978, of activities authorized by NRC Operating License No. R-83 and to the discussion of the inspection findings held by Mr. Murray with Dr. J. D. Randall and other members of the University staff at the conclusion of the inspection on September 15, 1978.

Areas examined during the inspection and our finding are discussed in the enclosed inspection report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examination of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspectors.

Based on the results of the inspection, it appears that two of your activities were not conducted in full compliance with NRC requirements. The items and references to the pertinent requirements are listed in Enclosure 1 to this letter. The inspector verified that corrective action had been completed for the two items of noncompliance prior to leaving your facility on September 15, 1978. Accordingly, you are not requested to provide any additional information regarding the items of noncompliance.

Two unresolved items are also discussed in the inspection report. With regard to the unresolved item concerning limits on explosive materials, we have reviewed this matter with our Headquarters Licensing Staff. The Commission's position involving the radiography of explosives was outlined in a letter sent to Dr. Randall on June 23, 1971. This letter states that the use of explosives within a reactor facility is considered an unreviewed safety question pursuant to 10 CFR 50.59 unless such usage has been reviewed and approved by the Commission. (A copy of the June 23, 1971, letter is included as Enclosure 2 to this letter). The Commission's position regarding explosive materials is also discussed in Section C.2.d of Regulatory Guide 2.2.

In view of the above requirements, you are requested to terminate the radiography of explosive material that exceeds the limits specified in Technical Specification 3.6.(c) until the information mentioned in the June 23, 1971, letter has been reviewed and approved by the Commission.

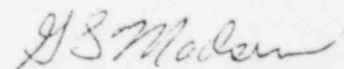
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In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulation, a copy of this letter and the enclosed inspection report will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room. If this report contains any information that you believe to be proprietary, it is necessary that you make a written application within 20 days to this office to withhold such information from public disclosure. Any such application must include a full statement of the reasons on the basis of which it is claimed that the information is proprietary, and should be prepared so that proprietary information identified in the application is contained in a separate part of the document. If we do not hear from you in this regard within the specified period, the report will be placed in the Public Document Room.

Should you have any question concerning this letter, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



G. L. Madsen, Chief  
Reactor Operations and  
Nuclear Support Branch

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. IE Inspection Report No. 50-128/78-02