

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Based on the results of the NRC inspection conducted September 11-15, 1978, it appears that certain of your activities were not conducted in full compliance with NRC requirements as indicated below:

1. 10 CFR 20.203(c)(1) requires that each high radiation area shall be conspicuously posted with a sign or signs bearing the radiation caution symbol and the words:

CAUTION
HIGH RADIATION AREA

Contrary to the above, the cave door to the beam port No. 4 neutron radiography facility was not posted while the beam port was in use on September 12, 1978. The evaluation of radiation levels in the facility indicate that whole body radiation levels of approximately 40 Rem/hr neutron and 10 Rem/hr gamma are present in the primary beam area.

This is an infraction.

2. 10 CFR 19.11(a)(1) requires that copies of 10 CFR 19 and 10 CFR 20 be posted.

Contrary to the above, copies of required documents were not posted on September 12, 1978.

This is a deficiency.

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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

June 23, 1971

Docket No. 50-123

Texas A&M University
College of Engineering
ATTN: Professor John D. Randall, Director
Nuclear Science Center
College Station, Texas 77343

License No. E-83

Gentlemen:

An increasing number of programs being performed at research and testing reactor facilities involve the radiography of explosives. This letter is being sent to all licensees for research and testing facilities to advise you that the presence and irradiation of explosives in a reactor facility must be evaluated carefully because of the potential for damage to the reactor. The use of explosives within a reactor facility is considered to be an unreviewed safety question pursuant to Section 50.59 of 10-CFR-Part 50 unless such usage has been reviewed and approved by the Commission. If you presently receive, or have plans to receive and handle explosives, an evaluation of the consequences of accidental explosions should be made and submitted to the Commission's Division of Reactor Licensing. Proposed operating restrictions that provide for safe usage of explosive materials should be submitted with this evaluation for inclusion in your Technical Specifications. In this context, "explosives" include all materials that would constitute Class A, Class B and Class C explosives as described in Title 49, Parts 172 and 173 of the Code of Federal Regulations, regarding transportation of explosives and other dangerous materials.

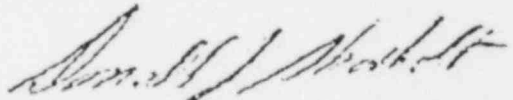
Your evaluation should contain sufficient information to establish operating restrictions; should indicate the maximum quantity of explosives (in pounds of equivalent TNT) allowed in the facility, the form of the explosives, the controls exercised when handling and storing explosives, the cumulative radiation exposure limits for explosives, the utilization of explosives within the facility, and the maximum quantity of explosives that could be involved in postulated accidents; and should include an assessment of the probability and the potential consequences of an explosion occurring.

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Please contact us if you have questions regarding this matter.

- Sincerely,



Donald J. Skovholt
Assistant Director for
Reactor Operations
Division of Reactor Licensing