

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

REGION V

Report No. 50-326/78-03

Docket No. 50-326 License No. R-116 Safeguards Group _____

Licensee: University of California

Irvine, California 92717

Facility Name: TRIGA Mark I

Inspection at: Irvine, California

Inspection Conducted: October 16 and 19, 1978

Inspectors: A. L. Canter 10/30/78
H. L. Canter, Reactor Inspector Date Signed

L. F. Biller 10/30/78
L. F. Biller, Reactor Inspector Date Signed

A. J. Horn 10/30/78
A. J. Horn, Reactor Inspector Date Signed

J. R. Curtis 10/30/78
J. R. Curtis, Radiation Specialist Date Signed

Approved By: J. L. Crews 10/30/78
J. L. Crews, Chief, Reactor Operations and Nuclear Support Branch Date Signed

Summary:

Inspection on October 16 and 19, 1978 (Report No. 50-326/78-03)

Areas Inspected: Routine, announced inspection of refueling related activities. The inspection involved 11.5 inspector-hours onsite by four NRC inspectors.

Results: No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

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DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

*Dr. G. Miller, Reactor Supervisor

The inspectors talked with other members of the facility staff including reactor operators.

*Attended the exit interview.

2. Refueling Related Activities

On August 24, 1978, the Region V office of the NRC received notice of an event in which a ballpoint pen fell into a clearance space between the reflector assembly and the bottom grid plate of the core. On October 6, 1978, the Region V office was notified that an aluminum finger ring used to detect extremity radiation exposures also fell into the same general location in the core as did the pen.

The licensee has not operated the plant since this second occurrence. A licensee representative stated that the plan is to defuel the reactor in order to recover the two items in question.

As part of the August 24, 1978 submittal on the first occurrence, the licensee stated that auxiliary fuel storage racks must be fabricated to temporarily store the off-loaded fuel during the retrieval operations. Since that time, and because of this second occurrence, the licensee has decided to provide a 10 CFR 50.59 evaluation of the safety significance of the defuel-retrieval-refuel cycle.

The inspectors reviewed various draft documents associated with the operations mentioned above. The draft documents included procedures for fuel movements, health physics precautions and a safety evaluation of the retrieval operations. A licensee representative stated that the Reactor Operations Committee will review all documents associated with the retrieval operations prior to initiation of the work.

No items of noncompliance or deviations were identified.

3. Exit Interview

The inspectors met with a licensee representative (denoted in Paragraph 1) on October 19, 1978 to summarize the purpose, scope, and findings of the inspection.