

Official

SEP 18 1990

Docket No. 50-160
License No. R-97
EA 88-32

Georgia Institute of Technology
ATTN: Dr. J. P. Crecine, President
900 Atlantic Drive, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30332

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF REQUIREMENTS OF ORDER MODIFYING LICENSE

On January 20, 1988, an Order Modifying License was issued to the Georgia Institute of Technology. The order stipulated that you immediately cease utilization of the reactor facility for irradiation experiments until certain conditions were met and you submit specified survey results to the NRC. The conditions to be met, as outlined in Section IV of the Order, required you to: a) improve the management oversight of licensed activities; b) conduct a formal review of past activities at the facility to determine the root causes of an August 1987 incident and any other similar incidents; c) assess the internal, external, extremity, and skin doses to personnel involved in the August 1987 incident; d) revise inadequate health physics and operating procedures which contributed to the August 1987 incident; e) develop a schedule of actions necessary to correct inadequacies in management control, operations, and procedures; f) develop and implement a training program to address the problems of the past and to cover changes that would be made in the program; and, g) submit a summary of the reviews and assessments made, including corrective actions and appropriate schedules, to the NRC for review and approval.

On March 17, 1988, a Confirmatory Order Modifying License was also issued to the Georgia Institute of Technology. The Confirmatory Order did not modify the conditions of the January 20, 1988 Order but did stipulate further conditions to be met prior to restart of the reactor. The conditions contained in Section IV of the Confirmatory Order required you to: a) identify, based on your review as well as that of your independent consultant, the root causes of problems that may impact the safe operations of the reactor; b) provide in writing to Region II a description of the actions taken to resolve the issues that could impact the safe operation of the reactor and the reasons why the suspension of reactor operations should be lifted, and, c) resume reactor operations only after receiving written approval from the Regional Administrator, Region II.

On November 15, 1988, following implementation of corrective actions which initiated programs addressing all of the conditions specified in the Orders, you were authorized to restart the reactor and resume irradiation experiments. However, due to your past performance, the NRC decided to continue to fully monitor operations at the facility to provide a continuing long-term assessment

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of the adequacy of your corrective actions. Based on this long-term assessment, we have reviewed your letters dated January 22, January 28, February 26, March 9, April 7, May 13, August 19, September 19, and November 2, 1988, and, February 14, 1989, in response to the aforementioned Orders. Your responses to the terms of these Orders have also been reviewed during inspections performed March 17 & 18 and April 6 & 11, August 29 - September 9 and November 7 - 10, and September 8 & 9, 1988; January 25 - 30, July 31 - August 3, 9 & 10, August 22 - 24, September 14 & 15, 18 & 19, and 27, and September 25 - 29, 1989; and, January 16 - 19, June 12 - 14, 26 - 29, and July 2 & 3, 1990.

Based on our review of your letters, the inspections performed at your facility, and various management meetings held with your staff, we have determined that you have completed the terms of the Orders. Therefore, no further actions are required on your part pursuant to these Orders.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

No reply to this letter is required. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



Stewart D. Ebnetter
Regional Administrator

cc: Dr. Gary Poehlein
Vice President
Interdisciplinary Programs

Dr. Ratib A. Karam, Director
Neely Nuclear Research Center

bcc: Document Control Desk
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YLF
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for J. Lieberman
(per telecon 8/28/90 w/ E. Bates)