

PENNSTATE



Michael M. Reischman  
Associate Dean  
Graduate Studies and Research

(814) 865-4542

The Pennsylvania State University  
101 Hammond Building  
University Park, PA 16802

January 30, 1991

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Re: Tech Spec Violation  
License R-2, Docket No. 50-005

Dear Sir or Madame:

During reactor operation at 1 MW in automatic mode on January 22, 1991 at approximately 1415 hours, the reactor operator stepped out of the reactor control room for a few seconds to provide experimenters access to the reactor bay through a locked door. This operator action is a violation of the facility technical specifications (t.s.), section 6.1.3.a, which requires a licensed operator to be present in the control room when the reactor is not secured. While this constitutes a breakdown of procedural controls, there were no operational ramifications. This violation is reportable under section 1.1.33.e of the facility t.s. This letter is to fulfill the requirements of section 6.6.2.a of the facility t.s. to follow within 14 days with a report of the event.

Reactor management learned of the above event through the reported observation of another staff member. The operator readily admitted the event occurred when interviewed by the facility director. The operator said he had never done the violation previously and knew it was not accepted practice to leave the control room when the reactor is not secured; the operator said he did not know his action was a t.s. violation. The operator was outside of the control room a distance of eight feet for five seconds or less by his estimate.

To prevent the recurrence of this event in the future, a training procedure explaining the event is being circulated to all licensed reactor operators. This procedure requires a signature from each operator that he/she has read and understands the training information circulated.

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NRC Region I was notified on January 23, 1991 by phone contact with Mr. Walt Pasciak, the duty officer, and by a fax sent to his attention.

Sincerely,



Dr. Charles L. Hosler, Jr.  
Senior Vice President for Research  
and Dean of the Graduate School

CLH:TLF/skr

cc: Region I Administrator  
M. M. Reischman  
M. H. Voth  
E. H. Klevans  
T. L. Flinchbaugh