

JUL 08 1994

Docket No. 50-225

Dr. Michael Z. Podowski, Department Head
Department of Nuclear Engineering and
Engineering Physics
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
NES 1-9
Troy, New York 12180-3590

Dear Dr. Podowski:

Subject: NRC Inspection No. 50-225/94-01

An announced safety inspection of your reactor operation program was conducted by Mr. S. Holmes of this office on May 23-27, 1994 at the L. David Walthousen Critical Experimental Facility of activities authorized by NRC License No. CX-22. Discussions of our findings were held by Mr. Holmes with you and members of your staff at the conclusion of this inspection on May 27, 1994.

Areas reviewed during this inspection are important to public health and safety and are described in the enclosed inspection report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations made by the inspector.

While no current safety concerns or violation of regulatory requirements were identified during this inspection, weaknesses regarding staffing levels of both the radiation safety and reactor operations organizations were discussed with you and members of your staff during the exit meeting. You and the facility Director committed to ensuring that adequate numbers of reactor operators would be available as required by the Technical Specifications. However, we request that you evaluate the adequacy of the proposed reduction in radiation safety staffing and that you provide to NRC Region I, when your evaluation is completed, any actions taken or planned to improve staffing, or justification to show that the proposed staffing is adequate to provide radiation safety support to both the Reactor Critical Facility and the campus. In addition, an unresolved item was identified, as described in Section 7.3 of the enclosed report. This item resulted because required documentation of a radiation survey of the facility for the third quarter of 1993 could not be located. Your staff committed to attempt to locate the survey documentation.

Your dilemma in coordinating one radiation program for separate State and Federal licenses was also discussed with you and members of your staff during the exit meeting. Although issuance of new radiation program guidance by New York State was delayed, you had fulfilled all aspects of the revised 10 CFR 20 requirements issued by the NRC, save having the updated program in writing. Additionally, you and your Radiation Protection Officer committed to additional actions to ensure that all requirements of the revised 10 CFR 20 are fulfilled by your staff. We request you inform us when these actions are completed.

The responses requested above are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Public Law No. 96-511.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
James H. Joyner

James H. Joyner, Chief
Facilities Radiological Safety
and Safeguards Branch
Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: NRC Region I Inspection Report No. 50-225/94-01

cc w/encl:

Dr. D. R. Harris, Director, Reactor Critical Facility
Dr. G. Judd, Dean of the Faculty
K. Abraham, PAO (2)
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
State of New York

bcc w/encl:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)

T. F. Dragoun, DRSS

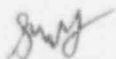
S. Holmes, DRSS

S. Weiss, NRR (OWFN 10D21)

J. Caldwell, NRR/LOLB (OWFN 10D22)

W. Dean, OEDO

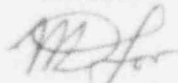
DRSS:RI



Holmes

6/21/94

DRSS:RI



Jang

6/24/94

DRSS:RI



Joyner

6/18/94