

JUN 15 1984

Docket No: 50-20

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Research Reactor
ATTN: Mr. Lincoln Clark, Jr.
Director of Reactor Operations
138 Albany Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Gentlemen:

Subject: Appraisal Report No. 50-20/84-01

To verify that licensees have attained an adequate state of on-site emergency preparedness, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is conducting a special appraisal at research and test reactors. These appraisals are being performed in lieu of certain routine inspections normally conducted in the area of emergency preparedness. The objectives of the appraisal at each facility are to evaluate the overall adequacy and effectiveness of emergency preparedness and to identify areas of weakness that need to be strengthened. We will use the findings from these appraisals as a basis not only for requesting individual licensee action to correct deficiencies and effect improvements, but also for effecting improvements in NRC requirements and guidance.

During the period April 3-6, 1984, the NRC conducted an appraisal of the emergency preparedness program for the MIT Research Reactor Facility. Areas examined during this appraisal are described in the enclosed report. Within these areas, the appraisal team reviewed selected procedures and representative records, inspected emergency facilities and equipment, observed work practices, reviewed sections of the Emergency Plan, and interviewed personnel.

The findings of this emergency preparedness appraisal indicate that the emergency preparedness program in general provides reasonable assurance that the emergency response organization can respond in the event of a radiological emergency, however, certain corrective actions are necessary to provide improved implementation of the emergency preparedness program. These are described in Appendix A, "Significant Emergency Preparedness Findings", and Appendix B, "Emergency Preparedness Improvement Items".

We recognize that an explicit regulatory requirement pertaining to each item identified in Appendices A and B may not currently exist. Notwithstanding this, you are requested to submit a written statement within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter, describing your planned actions for improving each of the items identified in Appendix A and the results of your consideration of each of the items in Appendix B. This description is to include, (1) actions which have been taken, (2) actions which will be taken, and (3) a schedule for completion of actions for each item.

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(a), a copy of this letter and the enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room unless you notify this office, by telephone, within ten days of the date of this letter and submit written application to withhold information contained therein within thirty days of the date of this letter. Such application must be consistent with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.790(b)(1). The telephone notification of your intent to request withholding, or any request for an extension of the 10-day period which you believe necessary, should be made to the Supervisor, Files, Mail and Records, USNRC Region I, at (215) 337-5223.

Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated. Should you have any questions concerning this appraisal, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

orig signed by
R. Bellamy

for Thomas T. Martin, Director
Division of Engineering and
Technical Programs

Enclosures:

1. Appendix A, Significant Emergency Preparedness Findings
2. Appendix B, Emergency Preparedness Improvement Items
3. NRC Region I Appraisal Report No. 50-20/84-01

cc w/encl:

Dr. O. K. Harling, Director of the Reactor Laboratory
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
Commonwealth of Massachusetts (2)

bcc w/encl:

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APPENDIX A

SIGNIFICANT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FINDINGS

Based on the results of the NRC's appraisal of the MIT Emergency Preparedness Program conducted April 3 - 6, 1984, the following improvement is necessary: (References are to paragraphs in the NRC Region I Appraisal Report No. 50-20/84-01).

1. Develop Emergency Action Levels (EAL's) based on specific instrument readings for each of the four classification levels specified in the Emergency Plan (See Paragraph 8).

APPENDIX B

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IMPROVEMENT ITEMS

Based on the results of the NRC's appraisal of the MIT Emergency Preparedness Program conducted April 3 - 6, 1984, the following items should be considered for improvement: (References are to paragraphs in the NRC Region I Appraisal Report No. 50-20/84-01).

1. Each section of the procedures should be clearly labeled with the title of the individual responsible for its implementation (See Paragraph 7).
2. Incorporate EAL's in a procedure or procedures in such a manner that they may be used by the responsible individual to arrive at a formal classification and declaration of an emergency event for all classification levels (See Paragraph 8).
3. Review Emergency Operating Procedures and Abnormal Operating Procedures to determine if the information required for performing the indicated action is contained in the procedure and/or if the indicated reference is appropriate (See Paragraph 8).
4. Provide several high range dosimeters within the containment building emergency lockers (See Paragraph 12).
5. Provide procedural guidance on supplying all emergency response personnel with appropriate dosimetry (See Paragraph 18).