



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION II  
101 MARIETTA STREET, N.W., SUITE 2900  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30323-0199

Report No.: 50-160/95-04

Licensee: Georgia Institute of Technology  
225 North Avenue  
Atlanta, GA 30332

Docket No.: 50-160

License No.: R-97

Facility Name: Georgia Institute of Technology

Inspection Conducted: October 31 - November 3, 1995

Inspector: William J. Tobin 11/20/95  
W. Tobin, Senior Safeguards Inspector Date Signed

Approved by: E. J. McAlpine 11/29/95  
E. J. McAlpine, Chief Date Signed  
Fuel Facilities Branch  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

### SUMMARY

#### Scope:

This Special announced safeguards inspection was conducted to review the circumstances surrounding an uninvited tour of portions of the Neely Nuclear Research Center by a television news media crew which occurred, apparently, on the morning of October 26, 1995.

#### Results:

As of the last day of this inspection, November 3, 1995, the inspector could find no record of, nor witness to, this tour. Neither the licensee nor the inspector could find any evidence of a security breach of the protected area. One licensee employee was identified who had seen parts of the video made by the television crew supposedly on October 26,

1995; according to that employee, the video shows two security doors being challenged by the television crew which remained locked. This employee stated that the video shows the crew touring interior and exterior areas of the Center which are open to the public or students and staff. On November 10, the inspector viewed the television showing of the video taken during this event and could find no indication that the television crew had unauthorized access to the protected/radiation controlled areas.

No violations or deviations were identified.

## REPORT DETAILS

### 1. Persons Contacted

#### Licensee Employees

D. Arnold, News Media Coordinator  
\*R. Ice, Radiation Safety Officer  
\*R. Karam, Center Director  
R. Lang, Research Facilities, Security Director  
\*D. Parker, Supervisor  
\*W. Statham, Reactor Operations Manager  
J. Vickery, Chief of Police

#### Nuclear Regulatory Commission

\*A. Gooden, Radiation Specialist  
\*E. McAlpine, Chief, Fuel Facilities Branch

\*Attended exit interview.

### 2. Fixed Site Protection of Special Nuclear of Moderate Strategic Significance (81421)

On October 31, 1995, a Safeguards Inspector from the Region II staff responded to the licensee's facility after the NRC received information from the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Georgia that a nationally syndicated television station had videotaped its crew conducting an uninvited tour of portions of the Neely Nuclear Research Center. According to the State official, who had been advised by the Director of the Center, on the morning of October 26, 1995, the television crew entered the Center through the unlocked front doors used by students and staff, and proceeded through several hallways filming as it went. The crew is alleged to have gone up a stairwell to the second level of the Center to where the visitors' observation overlook area is located, then exited the corridor through non-security doors and travelled out over the roof of classrooms and laboratories. The crew then returned to the interior of the Center and, having proceeded back down the stairwell, exited the rear of the Center. Having done this, the crew was then located inside a fenced in storage yard. During this unscheduled tour, the crew reportedly tried (unsuccessfully) to open several locked doors inside the Center which were part of the security and radiation control area barrier. The NRC was further informed by the State official that he was told that this crew also took several readings with some type of radiation detector as it travelled through the hallways of the Center and into the fenced in storage yard. The crew then exited the yard by climbing over a non-security fence.

At the initiation of the NRC response to this information, the Region II Safeguards Inspector was informed by the licensee's Director of the Neely Nuclear Research Center that neither he nor anyone in the staff and student body had witnessed the uninvited tour. It was learned that the licensee's Security Director of Research Facilities was the only individual who had spoken with the crew and seen parts of their video filmed during the tour.

This Security Director was interviewed by the Region II Safeguards Inspector on October 31, 1995, and related the following:

At 10:30 a.m. on October 26, 1995, a television news media crew was interviewing him relative to the 1996 Olympic Games and security of the campus. The television crew showed him a video of their unscheduled visit to the Neely Nuclear Research Center which supposedly had occurred earlier that morning. According to the Security Director, the tape was "fast forwarded" on several occasions but at no time did he witness the crew enter the protected/radiation controlled areas. He stated that the video reveals two attempts to open security doors which remained locked. He further stated that in his brief discussions with this television crew they related to him where in the Center they had travelled; reportedly the crew was in the areas either open to the public or staff and students.

The Security Director further recalled that the video revealed several occasions when the crew put a radiation detector alongside doors, walls, and containers (in the storage yard). It was unknown if the detectors emitted any readings. Because the videotape was "fast forwarded", the Security Director was uncertain if the crew had gone out on the roof of the second level of the Center, or if it had filmed the visitor observation overlook area.

The inspector, in response to this event, inspected the Center and verified access controls, barriers, alarms, assessment capabilities and response to the alarms were in accordance with the licensee's Physical Security Plan dated April 1, 1991. There were no indications that this television crew violated the security/radiation controlled area boundary. There were no witnesses, found by the inspector, to this event. There were no records of the entry, tour nor exit by the television crew.

The inspector was advised by the Center's Director that on the morning of October 27, 1995, he reconstructed the course reportedly travelled by the television crew and conducted a "walk-down" to verify the absence of contraband. All equipment and facilities were found to be normal. The Center's staff and students

were informed of the event by this Director. Public access to the Center was revised to now require either the use of a coded key card reader or the presence of an authorized individual to open the front entrance. Additional patrols by the campus Police Department are also in effect.

On November 15, 1995, the inspector viewed the nationally syndicated television showing of the video taken during this event. There were no indications that the television crew had unauthorized access to the protected/radiation controlled areas.

In conclusion, no NRC regulations were found to be violated.

3. Exit Meeting

The Exit Meeting was held at the Center on November 3, 1995, with those so noted in Paragraph 1 in attendance. The licensee was advised of the inspector's finding. No dissenting comments were noted.