

April 10, 1992

Docket No. 50-288  
License No. R-112

Reed College  
Portland, Oregon 97202

Attention: William Haden, Acting President

SUBJECT: CONCURRENCE IN LICENSEE PLAN TO LOCATE LEAK

This letter refers to the Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) dated November 25, 1991, detailing the agreement between Reed College and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) resulting from the Unusual Event declared at your facility on November 23, 1991. In the CAL, Reed committed to develop a Plan to evaluate the reactor fuel cladding; to communicate this Plan to the NRC; and to obtain NRC concurrence prior to implementing the Plan. Also, Reed committed to refrain from manipulating the reactor control rods and from taking the reactor critical until the cause of the radioactivity release was understood, was communicated to the NRC Region V office, and received NRC concurrence. Reed has submitted such a Plan, and by this letter the NRC concurs in that Plan.

Reed has informed Region V that the probable cause of the radioactivity release was a pinhole-sized leak in the cladding of one of the fuel elements. In submitting dated March 17, March 30, and April 8, 1992, Reed has described a plan for locating the leaking fuel element. Based upon our review of the Plan, as revised, and on discussions with Reed's Reactor Director, we concur in the Plan to locate the leaking fuel element, recognizing that it will be necessary to take the reactor critical to execute the Plan.

In accordance with the guidance provided in the Plan, as revised, Reed should promptly notify Region V upon the occurrence of any of the following: identification of the leaking fuel element, significant revision to the Plan, or the occurrence of abnormal events. Furthermore, please note that prior to resuming routine operation, you are required by Technical Specification 4.E.4 to satisfy the conditions of Amendment No. 5 to Facility Operating License No. R-112, issued January 16, 1992, and to locate and remove from service any leaking fuel element.

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With this concurrence in the Plan, as revised, Reed has satisfied the conditions of the CAL.

In accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.790, a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

B. H. Faulkenberry  
Deputy Regional Administrator

bcc: J. Sniezek, DEDR  
J. Lieberman, OE  
S. Weiss, PDNP  
J. Goldberg, OGC  
R. Huey, RV

RV/gmd  
REQUEST COPY  
YES/NO  
Reese  
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SEND TO PDR  
YES/NO

REQUEST COPY  
YES/NO *Jan*  
FWenslawski  
4/10/92

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YES/NO *Jan*  
Rscarano  
4/10/92

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REQUEST COPY  
YES/NO  
BFaulkenberry  
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