

Public

~~SECRET~~

September 23, 1996

Mr. John Torphy
Vice Chancellor for Administration
University of Wisconsin
Administration, Room 110
Bascom Hall
Madison, WI 53706

SUBJECT: ROUTINE SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-156/96001
AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Torphy:

This refers to the inspection conducted on August 19-23, 1996, at the University of Wisconsin Nuclear Reactor laboratory. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations of activities in progress.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that a violation of NRC requirements occurred. The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding it are described in detail in the subject inspection report. The violation is of concern because it indicated that the University was unaware of the confusion among key managers over responsibility for the overall administration and effective implementation of the reactor radiation protection program as described in the executive summary and the inspection report details.

During the inspection and review of subsequent correspondence sent to the NRC you have completed some corrective measures designed to address this issue. In addition, you committed to conduct an active ongoing assessment of

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corrective actions to identify other areas for improvement as needed. We encourage you to support these activities and to express clear management expectations to your staff concerning the need for compliance with NRC regulations.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements. In addition, please respond to the lack of responsibility demonstrated by your staff regarding oversight of the reactor radiation program at the reactor laboratory.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice", a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response to this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Roy Caniano for

Cynthia D. Pederson, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No. 50-156
License No. R-74

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. Inspection Report
No. 50-156/96001(DNMS)

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