



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

NOV 8 1996

Dr. Roland Hayden, Dean
College of Engineering
Texas A&M University
Room 301, Wisenbaker Engineering Research Center
Mail Stop 3126
College Station, Texas 77843-3126

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-059/96-01 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Dr. Hayden:

An NRC inspection was conducted September 30 through October 3, 1996, and October 24, 1996, at your AGN-201M reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection. A followup telephone conversation was held on October 24, 1996, between Dr. Poston and Dr. Nicholas to discuss a third violation identified during an in-office review of your audit and review program.

In general, the reactor program was operated safely and properly. The senior reactor operators were knowledgeable and surveillance testing was performed as required. However, based on the results of this inspection, we have identified three violations involving your failure to: perform audits and reviews of the reactor operations, as required by your Technical Specifications; perform a review of your radiation protection program annually, as required by 10 CFR 20.1101(c); and perform annual reviews of the security program by the Reactor Safety Board and forward the results of the annual reviews to the NRC in the annual reports of the facility, as required by the Reactor Facility Security Plan. When each violation is considered separately, the safety significance of each individual violation is small; however, when these issues are considered collectively it indicates a lack of management oversight and attention to detail.

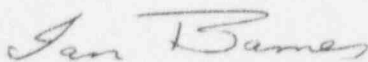
These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure(s), and your response 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 Public Document Room without redaction.

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Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,


for Kenneth E. Brockman, Acting Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No.: 50-059

License No.: R-23

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report
50-059/96-01

cc w/enclosures:

Dr. James C. Holste, Assistant Dean
College of Engineering
Chairman of Reactor Safety Board
Texas A&M University
Room 301, Wisenbaker Engineering Research Center
Mail Stop 3126
College Station, Texas 77843-3126

Dr. John W. Poston, Head
Nuclear Engineering Department
Reactor Administrator
Texas A&M University
Room 129, Zachry Engineering Center
Mail Stop 3133
College Station, Texas 77843-3133

Robert O. Berry, Reactor Supervisor
Nuclear Engineering Department
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Room 129, Zachry Engineering Center
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Dr. W. D. Reece, Associate Professor
Member of Reactor Safety Board
Texas A&M University
Room 129, Zachry Engineering Center
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Chris M. Meyer, Radiation Safety Officer
Office of Radiological Safety
Texas A&M University
Mail Stop 3261
College Station, Texas 77843-3261

Test, Research and Training
Reactor Newsletter
202 Nuclear Sciences Center
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

Texas Radiation Control Program Director

E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)
E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)

bcc to DMB (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

- L. J. Callan, RA
- *B. Murray, DRS/PSB
- *J. B. Nicholas, DRS/PSB
- *MIS Coordinator (Original IFS)
- *RIV File
- *DRS/PSB File (Goines)
- Lisa A. Shea, OC/DAF/LFARB (TWFN - MS 9-E4)
- T. S. Michaels, NRR/DRPM/PDND, NRR Project Manager (OWFN - MS 11-B20)
- S. H. Weiss, NRR/DRPM/PDND (OWFN - MS 11-B20)

DRS A1 96-G-0133

*w/IFS

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E-Mail report to D. Nelson (DJN)
E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)

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