UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
~~DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE~~
REGION V
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June 5, 1972

J. G. Keppler, Chief
Reactor Testing and Operations Branch
Directorate of Regulatory Operations

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
DOCKET NO. 050-0113

An announced preoperational inspection of facility modifications, authorized by Construction Permit No. CPRR-111, was made on June 1, 1972. The following summarizes the inspection findings:

a. A new bottom grid plate was installed.

b. Two standard TRIGA-type rack-and-pinion control rods with fuel followers were installed.

c. A standard, pulsing rod was installed.

d. A new control console was installed.

All of these modifications were in accordance with the application and related amendments referenced in the construction permit.

The inspection included observation of a startup check. All instruments, scrams and interlocks were found to be operable. An earthquake scram has been installed. Drive (in and out) times and drop times were measured for all rods during the inspection.

The licensee is seeking permission to operate the reactor with the old aluminum clad fuel elements on a temporary basis pending receipt of the stainless steel clad fuel elements. The licensee will not pulse the reactor with the aluminum clad core. The inspection disclosed that the four position mode switch presently provides for automatic and steady-state modes of operation only. The other two positions, for pulsing and square wave modes of operation. have been mechanically blocked. Gulf Energy and Environmental Systems, the supplier, will make the changes necessary for pulsing when license authority has been received and the stainless steel clad fuel elements have been placed in the core.

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We find that the facility has been modified as described in the application and amendments and there is reasonable assurance it can be operated without undue risk to the health and safety of the public. A report of this inspection will be submitted shortly.

G. S. Spencer, Chief, Reactor
Construction and Operations Branch