

official

FEB 10 1988

Docket No. 50-160
License No. R-97

Georgia Institute of Technology
ATTN: Dr. T. E. Stelson, Vice President
for Research
900 Atlantic Drive, N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30332

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-160/87-08

This refers to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) team inspection conducted by P. E. Fredrickson on December 16, 1987, January 4-5, 1988, and January 14-22, 1988. The inspection included a review of activities authorized for your Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) Research Reactor facility, specifically focusing on the procedures and management controls involved in an irradiation experiment conducted in August 1987, which resulted in potential personal and area contamination. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with you and those members of your staff identified in the enclosed Inspection 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 observation of activities in progress.

The inspection findings indicate that certain activities appeared to violate NRC requirements. The violations described in the enclosed report are under consideration for escalated enforcement action. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is being issued at this time, and no response to this letter is required. However, please be advised that the number and characterization of violations described in the enclosed Inspection Report may change as a result of further NRC review. An Enforcement Conference to discuss these violations has been scheduled for February 23, 1988. You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations.

The violations discussed in the enclosed inspection report raise concerns with lack of adequate management over the operation of the Georgia Tech research reactor. Our inspection efforts during the past year have focused on the need for you to evaluate your facility, not necessarily with respect to only meeting regulatory requirements, but to the management controls necessary to consistently operate a safe facility. Although we understand that you are attempting to make progress to improve your facility operation since the Enforcement Conference conducted on May 4, 1987, we have not observed a significant improvement in your performance. The issuance of the NRC Order on January 20, 1988, restricting your irradiation experiments was a direct result of our concern over your past performance, your unsatisfactory slow rate

8802170210 880210
PDR ADOCK 05000160
Q PDR

11 1E01

