

February 17, 1988

Docket No. 50-124

Dr. Keith Furr, Director  
Nuclear Laboratory  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
and State University  
Room 108 Robeson  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Dear Dr. Furr:

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF REACTOR BUILDING FOR UNRESTRICTED USE - VIRGINIA  
POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE REACTOR FACILITY

The NRC staff has reviewed the dismantling of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute Reactor Facility in accordance with your request of July 17, 1986 for a termination of the license facility. The staff has found that the reactor building can be released for unrestricted use since the residual contamination levels for the reactor building comply with Table 1, Regulatory Guide 1.86 and an exposure limit of 5 micro R/hr, above background at one meter.

The Confirmatory Radiological Survey report presented to the staff, however, indicates that the burial of waste material having radioactive contamination below established unrestricted release limits from the reactor facility appears to have resulted in elevated radionuclide concentrations in soil and in elevated exposure levels at the university landfill. We understand from a letter dated February 5, 1988 (D. Smiley to T. Michaels) that you have rearranged the landfill to bring the radionuclide concentrations in the soil to within acceptable limits. However, before we can release the total facility for unrestricted use, another radiological survey will have to be taken by the staff to confirm your results.

In the interim, you can use the reactor building in an unrestricted mode but you are still subject to your reactor license until such time as the landfill can be released with a consequent order which would terminate your license.

Sincerely,

Original signed by  
Theodore S. Michaels, Project Manager  
Standardization and Non-Power  
Reactor Project Directorate  
Division of Reactor Projects - III, IV,  
V and Special Projects  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

8802220115 880217  
PDR ADOCK 05000124  
P PDR

DISTRIBUTION:

Docket File  
NRC & Local PDRs  
PDSNP Reading  
EHylton

TMichaels  
LRubenstein  
EJordan  
JPartlow

ACRS (10)  
CBarth, OGC  
DMCollins, RII  
GBKuzo, RII

PDSNP  
EHylton  
02/10/88

PDSNP *KM*  
TMichaels:cw  
02/10/88

PDSNP *SR*  
LRubenstein  
02/10/88

PDSNP  
CBarth *apen*  
02/10/88



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

February 17, 1988

Docket No. 50-124

Dr. Keith Furr, Director  
Nuclear Laboratory  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
and State University  
Room 108 Robeson  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Dear Dr. Furr:

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF REACTOR BUILDING FOR UNRESTRICTED USE - VIRGINIA  
POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE REACTOR FACILITY

The NRC staff has reviewed the dismantling of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute Reactor Facility in accordance with your request of July 17, 1986 for a termination of the license facility. The staff has found that the reactor building can be released for unrestricted use since the residual contamination levels for the reactor building comply with Table 1, Regulatory Guide 1.86 and an exposure limit of 5 micro R/hr, above background at one meter.

The Confirmatory Radiological Survey report presented to the staff, however, indicates that the burial of waste material having radioactive contamination below established unrestricted release limits from the reactor facility appears to have resulted in elevated radionuclide concentrations in soil and in elevated exposure levels at the university landfill. We understand from a letter dated February 5, 1988 (D. Smiley to T. Michaels) that you have rearranged the landfill to bring the radionuclide concentrations in the soil to within acceptable limits. However, before we can release the total facility for unrestricted use, another radiological survey will have to be taken by the staff to confirm your results.

In the interim, you can use the reactor building in an unrestricted mode but you are still subject to your reactor license until such time as the landfill can be released with a consequent order which would terminate your license.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theodore S. Michaels".

Theodore S. Michaels, Project Manager  
Standardization and Non-Power  
Reactor Project Directorate  
Division of Reactor Projects - III, IV,  
V and Special Projects  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Docket No. 50-124

cc: Mayor of the City of Blacksburg  
City Hall  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Commonwealth of Virginia  
Council on the Environment  
903 Ninth Street Office Bldg.  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Mr. Donald R. Krause  
Nuclear Laboratory  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
and State University  
Room 108 Robeson  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061