



The University of New Mexico

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September 17, 1998

Marvin M. Mendoca
Senior Project Manager
Non-Power Reactors and Decommissioning Project Directorate
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Mendoca;

Enclosed is the 1998 Annual Report for the AGN-201M reactor located at the University of New Mexico - Docket 50-252.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Busch, Ph.D, P.E.
Chief Reactor Supervisor

Norman F. Roderick, Ph.D.
Reactor Administrator

cc: *Document Control Desk, USNRC*

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REPORT ON FACILITY LICENSE NO. R-102

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

JULY 1, 1997 - JUNE 30, 1998

The University of New Mexico's AGN-201M reactor was used for some research during the 1997-1998. This was a continuation of the research from the previous year and involved subcritical multiplication and die-away measurements at power level below 1 microWatt. There were no changes in facility design, performance characteristics, or operating procedures related to reactor safety during the reporting period. The NRC did an on-site review of the facility in September 1997 and found no major violations. There were some problems with documentation and the reactor operator re-qualification program. These have been corrected.

The AGN-201M Reactor Facility is an essential part of our educational program, including public education, and continues to serve us well. The use of the reactor from July of 1997 through June of 1998 was as follows:

Type of Use	July 97 - June 98 Hours	July 97 - June 98 Watt-hours
Class Demonstrations	1.0	0.100
Faculty Research	18.5	8.577
Graduate Student Research	0.0	0.000
Maintenance and Equipment Check	20.2	0.000
Operator Training and Requalification	14.6	33.125
Teaching	18.3	41.568
Totals for the Year	72.6	83.370

There were no unscheduled shutdowns during the reporting period. During checkout on March 25, 1998, it was discovered that Channel 2, one of the 2 safety channels, was not operating properly. It was determined that the power supply had failed. A new power supply was ordered from the manufacturer and placed in the unit. The unit was checked for proper operation and the reactor was returned to operation on March 30, 1998. During the five-day period from 3/25 through 3/30, the reactor was not operated and there was no impact on its safety during this time.

There were no changes to the facility as it is described in the application for license and amendments thereto, nor were there any changes to the procedures as described in Facility Technical Specifications. No new experiments were performed during the reporting period. A new method of testing the control rod scram times was used in November 1997. This technique used an infrared sensing circuit on bench tests of rod scram times. The measured scram times ranged from 170 milliseconds to 332 milliseconds which is well below the technical specification limit of 1 second. This method will be used in the future for continued verification of control rod scram times.

There were no 10 CFR 50.59 issues during the reporting period. During the reporting period, there was no liquid radioactive waste released from the facility nor was there any solid waste released. There were no environmental radiation surveys performed outside the facility. All personnel exposures received during the reporting period were below 50 mrem per person with the majority of personnel receiving below 5 mrem. No facility visitors received measurable exposures.

The following personnel assignments for the reporting period are summarized below:

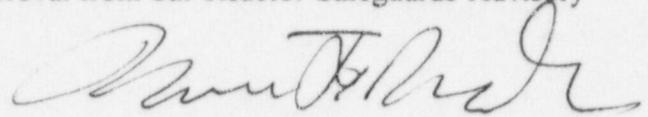
Dean, College of Engineering	Paul Fleury
Chairman, Department of Chemical and Nuclear Engineering	Joseph Cecchi
Reactor Administrator	Norman F. Roderick
Chief Reactor Supervisor	Robert D. Busch
USNRC-licensed Senior Reactor Operators	Robert D. Busch Ken Carpenter Gary Cooper

For the Reactor Safety Advisory Committee, Robert Long was added to the committee in August 1997 and R. Douglas O'Dell resigned his position in April 1998. The current makeup of the Reactor Safety Advisory Committee is:

Robert Jefferson
Ron Knief
Robert Long
Ted Schmidt
David Summers

with one vacant position.

The University of New Mexico's AGN-201M reactor continues to be used extensively for teaching experiments as a part of our undergraduate and graduate programs. These experiments include approach-to-critical, reactor period and reactivity measurements, importance functions measurements, sample activation, control rod calibrations, and reactor power and neutron fluence measurements. The reactor is also used throughout the Fall, Spring and Summer sessions of the University. All experiments have received prior approval from our Reactor Safeguards Advisory Committee.



Norman F. Roderick
Reactor Administrator