



United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

January 29, 1999
Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington DC 20555

Sirs:

Enclosed is Revision 8 of the Emergency Plan for the U.S. Geological Survey TRIGA Reactor (GSTR) Facility (License R-113, Docket 50-274). The plan was revised without prior NRC approval as permitted by 10 CFR 50.54(q). The revisions consist of the following three changes, all in Section 4.7.1, page 15 of the plan:

1. In the middle of the first paragraph, the sentence:

"First-responding crews are given training in the radiation hazards that might be encountered during an emergency by the Reactor Health Physicist"

was changed to read:

"The Reactor Health Physicist trains the first-responding fire and rescue crews in the radiation hazards that might be encountered during an emergency."

Basis: The term "first-responding crews" is vague and difficult to interpret. Defining the crews as the fire and rescue crews clarifies who is receiving the training. The sentence was also rearranged to improve its readability.

2. The subsequent sentence ends by stating:

"...and retraining sessions will be conducted at intervals not to exceed two (2) years."

This was changed to read:

"... and retraining sessions will be conducted at biennial intervals not to exceed 30 months."

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Basis: The original intent was that the retraining be performed on a nominal 2 year frequency. Exercises with offsite organizations are performed biennially, not to exceed 30 months. The retraining is performed as a part of those exercises and therefore the frequency should be the same. Agreements with outside organizations are also updated on a biennial basis, not to exceed 30 months.

3. In the third paragraph, the original sentence read:

"The Reactor Health Physicist provides training related to the transport of injured personnel who are contaminated."

This was changed to read:

"The Reactor Health Physicist assists the ambulance crew if transportation of injured, contaminated personnel is required."

Basis: The original sentence does not specify who receives the training or what frequency is required. We believe it is of more value to have the Health Physicist present and assisting the ambulance crew as needed.

These changes were reviewed and approved by the facility's Reactor Operations Committee. The committee believed that all changes submitted do not decrease the effectiveness of the Emergency Plan. It is our belief that all changes submitted herein are permitted by 10 CFR 50.54(q) without prior NRC approval. Revision 8 of the Emergency Plan will therefore be implemented on January 31, 1999.

Please contact the Reactor Supervisor (Tim DeBey) at (303) 236-4726 if you have any questions regarding the revision or need further details.

Sincerely,



Thomas D. Fouch
Reactor Administrator

Copy to:
Tim DeBey