



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 18, 1997

Dr. Daniel B. Bullen, Facility Director  
Mechanical Engineering Department  
Iowa State University  
2025 H.M. Black Engineering Building  
Ames, Iowa 50011-2160

SUBJECT: ROUTINE SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-116/97201(DRPM) AND  
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Dr. Bullen:

This refers to the inspection conducted on July 21-25, 1997 at the UTR-10 Argonaut Reactor. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed 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 observations of activities in progress.

Based on the results of this inspection, certain of your activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements, as specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation. The violation is of concern because of the apparent failure to properly assure, at specified frequencies, that certain safety systems were operable as required prior to reactor operation.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

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Dr. Daniel B. Bullen

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the Commission's regulations, a copy of this letter, the enclosures, and your response to this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Two non-cited violations were also identified during this inspection.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by]  
Marvin Mendonca, Acting Director  
Non-Power Reactor and Decommissioning  
Project Directorate,  
Division Reactor Programs Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-116  
License No. R-059

Enclosure: 1. Notice of Violation  
2. Inspection Report  
No. 50-116/97201(DRPM)

DISTRIBUTION:

~~Docket File 50-116~~

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