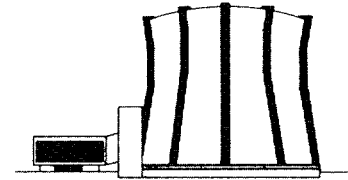


TEXAS ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS 77843-3575



NUCLEAR SCIENCE CENTER  
409/845-7551

April 3, 2000

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Dr. Theodore Michaels, REXB  
Mail Stop O12-D3  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

2000-0135

- Reference:
1. TAMU NSC Letter “Revision of Physical Security Plan” (January 23, 1998; March 24, 1998)
  2. USNRC Letter “Revision to Nuclear Science Center Physical Security Plan” (July 9, 1998)
  3. TAMU NSC Letter “Revision to Nuclear Science Center (NSC) Physical Security Plan” (September 16, 1998)
  4. USNRC Letter “Revision to Nuclear Science Center Physical Security Plan” (October 22, 1998)

Subject: Revision to the Nuclear Science Center (NSC) Physical Security Plan

Dear Dr. Michaels,

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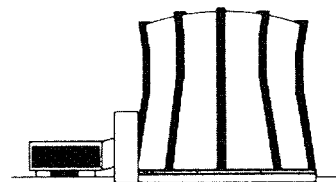
In January of 1998 the NSC proposed a change of the Physical Security Plan to upgrade our status from a facility with SNM of low strategic significance to a facility with SNM of moderate strategic significance. The driving force behind this proposed change was the possibility of a MOX fuel experiment being performed at the NSC. This experiment would have required us to obtain additional SNM and thus exceed the 10 CFR 73.2 limits for a facility with SNM of low strategic significance. Since that time the NSC has submitted two revisions of the Physical Security Plan in an effort to make this upgrade. The most recent revision was submitted on 9/16/98 and was returned to the NSC for additional revision on 10/22/98.

The MOX fuel experiments never received funding and thus no additional SNM was brought onto the NSC site. As a result, the NSC no longer wants to exceed the limits for SNM of low strategic significance. This, in addition to the strict requirements of 10 CFR 73.67(d) and Regulatory Guide 5.59, Part 1, has made it more feasible for the NSC to maintain the current Physical Security Plan.

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Consequently, the NSC would like to withdraw the request to upgrade to a facility with SNM of moderate strategic significance. The NSC will remain a facility with SNM of low strategic significance and will operate under the previously approved (and currently enforced) Physical Security Plan from August 1994.

A copy of the current Physical Security Plan is included with this letter for your convenience. Please contact us if you have any comments or questions or if we need to supply any additional information. Thank you.

Sincerely,

W. Dan Reece  
Director

WDR/rmw

SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION ATTACHED  
Upon Separation This Page is Decontrolled

Attachments: NSC Physical Security Plan (First Revision, January 1995)

xc: 211/Central File  
NSC Security File (Control Room)