

August 15, 2000

Richard C. Powell
Vice President for Research
and Graduate Studies
Administration 601
P.O. Box 210066
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona 85721-0066

Dear Mr. Powell:

SUBJECT: JULY 27, 2000, REPORT ON UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA NUCLEAR
REACTOR LABORATORY

This letter is in response to your August 2, 2000, letter, and follow-up to our telephone conversation. As we discussed, NRC inspects activities, conditions and programs related to the University of Arizona research reactor. NRC's inspections determine if licensees are operating their nuclear facilities safely and in accordance with regulatory requirements. Generally, NRC does not specify the topics it will cover in inspection. Therefore, NRC may or may not inspect the subject event in routine inspection. From our evaluation to date, we find that the University acted in a pro-active, positive manner in the reporting of this event to the NRC.

As for your request for recommendations on a potential independent review of the event, as we discussed on the telephone, I can not make recommendations of specific consultants or contractors. However, several professional societies and groups may be able to assist you in this regard.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Marvin M. Mendonca, Senior Project Manager
Events Assessment, Generic Communications and
Non-Power Reactors Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-113

cc:
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Marvin M. Mendonca, Senior Project Manger
Events Assessment, Generic Communications and
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