

March 9, 2001

EA-00-277

Dr. Richard L. Wallace, Chancellor
University of Missouri-Columbia
105 Jesse Hall
Columbia, MO 65211

SUBJECT: NRC REVIEW OF UNIVERSITY RESPONSE, NRC LETTER OF MARCH 5, 2001 - NRC CONCERNS ABOUT CHILLING EFFECT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA RESEARCH REACTOR (OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS REPORT NO. 4-2000-029)

Dear Dr. Wallace:

In a letter dated March 5, 2001, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission requested that the University of Missouri-Columbia conduct assessments into the work environment at the University of Missouri-Columbia Research Reactor (MURR). The assessments would examine the freedom of MURR employees to report problems without fear of retaliation and would examine the continuing effectiveness of corrective actions taken to address the past chilling effect at the reactor facility.

We requested that upon completion of your assessments, in addition to your written response, that the University present the results of the assessments in a public meeting with us. Based on your request during a telephone discussion with us on March 8, 2001, and on our review of other NRC actions of this type, we will review your written response and at that time determine the need to have a public meeting with the University.

Please contact Mr. Ledyard B. Marsh at 301-415-1168 if you have any questions. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David B. Matthews, Director
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-186

cc: Please see next page

University of Missouri-Columbia

Docket No. 50-186

cc:

University of Missouri
Associate Director
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