



The University of New Mexico

Chemical & Nuclear Engineering
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March 8, 2001

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

Reply to Notice of Violation

The University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Docket: 50-252
License: R - 102

During the January 22-24, 2001 NRC inspection of our facility, two violations were identified. The first was: The E-Plan stipulates that, among other items, first aid supplies shall be available in Room 081 of the Nuclear Engineering (NE) Laboratory Building; however no first aid supplies were present. The lack of supplies has been remedied and a first aid kit is now stored with other decontamination supplies in Room 081. The presence of the first aid supplies will be checked as part of the annual emergency drills to ensure that this violation does not occur again.

The second was: E-Plan stipulates that emergency drills shall be conducted annually; however, there was no documentation to indicate that an emergency drill was conducted in 1999. The reason for this violation was a failure on the part of the Chief Reactor Supervisor to document the drill. In discussions with the personnel involved (i.e., UNM Radiation Safety Officer, UNM Health Physicist, Licensed Senior Operator, and Chief Reactor Supervisor), each remembered performing a drill involving the spill of radioactive material and possible contamination of areas in the NE Laboratory Building. However, none of those involved could find any documentation of the drill in their files. To this point, we are enclosing a letter signed by the 4 individuals indicating their belief that the drill was held. To remedy the situation, each person involved in a drill will be responsible for documenting the drill and providing this information to the Chief Reactor Supervisor. The Chief Reactor Supervisor will consolidate the information and provide final documentation of the drill. This should avoid further violations in this area.

Based on the above actions, it is expected that the University of New Mexico is in full compliance with the requirements as March 8, 2001.

Sincerely,

Norman F. Roderick,
Interim Chair, Chemical and Nuclear Engineering Department

cc: Craig Bassett, Inspector, US NRC, Region II

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We, the undersigned, believe that an emergency drill was conducted during the 1999 calendar year, but cannot find documentation of such a drill.

Robert Busch
Chief Reactor Supervisor

Kenneth Carpenter
Licensed Reactor Supervisor

Jim DeZetter
UNM Radiation Safety Officer

Ralph Becker
UNM Health Physicist