

June 8, 2001

Dr. Stephen Binney, Director  
Oregon State University  
Radiation Center, A100  
Corvallis, OR 97331-5903

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN FOR THE OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY  
TRIGA REACTOR (TAC NOS. MB0734 AND MB0852)

Dear Dr. Binney:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your two letters dated November 28, 2000, and December 20, 2000, which transmitted changes to the Oregon State University TRIGA Reactor (OSTR) Emergency Response Plan, submitted under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.54(q). Your letter of November 28, 2000, submitted changes that you determined do not decrease the effectiveness of your emergency response plan. Your letter of December 20, 2000, submitted two changes that you believed decreased the effectiveness of your plan, therefore, they were submitted for NRC review and approval.

For the changes discussed in your letter of November 28, 2000, based on your determination that the changes do not decrease the effectiveness of your emergency response plan NRC approval is not required. Our initial review of these changes indicates them to be in accordance with 10 CFR 50.54(q). Implementation of these changes will be subject to inspection to confirm that they did not decrease the effectiveness of your emergency plan.

The staff has reviewed the changes discussed in your letter of December 20, 2000. The staff's review of those changes, which is enclosed with this letter, was performed using NUREG-0849, "Standard Review Plan for the Review and Evaluation of Emergency Plans for Research and Test Reactors." The proposed change that would modify the frequency of inventorying and inspecting emergency equipment was withdrawn by you during a telephone conversation with the NRC technical staff on May 11, 2001. The staff concludes that the remaining proposed change, as discussed in the enclosure, does not decrease the effectiveness of the OSTR Emergency Response Plan and the plan, as changed, continues to meet the requirements of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system

Dr. S. Binney

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(ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at (the Public Electronic Reading Room) <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html>. If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1127.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

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

Docket No. 50-243

Enclosure: As stated  
cc: w/enclosure  
Please see next page

Oregon State University

Docket No. 50-243

cc:

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Gainesville, FL 32611

Dr. S. Binney

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**REVIEW OF THE OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY TRIGA REACTOR (OSTR)  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN  
BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION**

**BACKGROUND**

As the result of several reviews of the OSTR Emergency Response Plan (the Plan), the licensee submitted proposed changes to the Plan by letters dated November 28, 2000, and December 20, 2000. The licensee stated that these changes were submitted under 10 CFR 50.54(q) and that most of the changes do not decrease the effectiveness of the Plan. However, the licensee identified two proposed changes that appear to decrease the effectiveness of the Plan and may require prior NRC approval before implementation. The changes are as follows:

1. Replace the clause "telephones can handle eight simultaneous calls" with "telephones can handle four simultaneous calls."
2. Reduce the frequency of the inspecting and inventorying of emergency equipment from semi-annually to annually for the equipment in a cabinet at the Good Samaritan Hospital and the Regional HAZMAT vehicle.

**DISCUSSION**

1. **Replace the clause "telephones can handle eight simultaneous calls" with "telephones can handle four simultaneous calls."**

This change is presented as a typographical error rather than a real change in procedure or process and corrects the Plan to reflect the actual situation. Therefore, this change is acceptable.

2. **Reduce the frequency of the inspecting and inventorying of emergency equipment from semi-annually to annually for the equipment in a cabinet at the Good Samaritan Hospital and the Regional HAZMAT vehicle.**

In the last set of changes, the licensee requested to decrease the calibration frequency from semiannual to annual. The NRC staff approved this change since the new modern radiation survey equipment has proved to be very stable and most equipment manufacturers now recommend annual calibrations. The licensee also stated that since this equipment was used infrequently, the licensee would periodically check the equipment under the maintenance portion of its emergency program and make sure the batteries were charged and the units were still functional. This commitment is still appropriate. Furthermore, the licensee states that personnel in these facilities are aware of the equipment and do not tamper with or use it. During a May 11, 2001, telephone conference between Dr. Lawrence Cohen of the NRC staff and Dr. Stephen Binney, the Director of the Oregon State University Radiation Center, this change was withdrawn. Therefore, the current semiannual inspection and inventory frequency of the emergency equipment will be retained.

**CONCLUSION**

The staff concludes that the proposed change concerning telephones, as discussed above, does not decrease the effectiveness of the Plan and the Plan, as changed, continues to meet the requirements of Appendix E to 10 CFR Part 50.