



REACTOR FACILITY

August 5, 2003

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Daniel E. Hughes, Operating Reactor Improvements Program
Mail Stop O12-G13
Washington, D.C. 20555

50-288

RE: Apparent Reed Reactor Technical Specification Violation

Dear Mr. Hughes,

This letter is to report an apparent violation of the Reed Reactor Technical Specifications

Reed Reactor Technical Specification E.3 states:

Each standard fuel element shall be visually inspected at least once every ten years. At least 1/5 of all the fuel elements of the core shall be inspected biennially. If indication of apparent deterioration or distortion is found, the fuel element(s) shall be removed from the core.

During a recent fuel inspection, we did not inspect fuel elements, which were not in the core at that time. We normally have four elements that are not in the core, two damaged elements and two spare used elements. Because they were not in the core, these elements were not inspected when they came due.


During our fuel leak investigation in the summer of 2003, one used element was put in the core to replace elements being investigated. Thus, we have one element in the core that was not inspected during the past ten years.

We plan to inspect the two elements as soon as possible after we complete our fuel leak procedure. This should be complete by August 31.

We have amended our operating procedures to ensure that elements that are not in the core are inspected as scheduled.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Stephen Frantz
Director, Reed College Reactor

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