

August 17, 2006

Dr. Mani Soma, Acting Dean
College of Engineering
University of Washington
Box 352180
Seattle, WA 98195-2180

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-139/2006-201

Dear Dr. Soma:

On July 13, 2006, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted an inspection at your University of Washington Nuclear Reactor facility. The enclosed report documents the inspection results, which were discussed on July 13, 2006, with Jeff Angeley, Associate Construction Manager, University of Washington, Richard Moss, Executive Engineer, representatives of LVI Services, Inc., the decommissioning contractor, and other personnel associated with the decommissioning project.

The inspection examined activities conducted under your license as they relate to safety and compliance with the NRC's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. The inspector reviewed selected procedures and records, observed activities, and interviewed personnel. Based on the results of this inspection, no findings of significance were identified.

In accordance with Section 2.390 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response (if any) will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, please contact Craig Bassett at (404) 358-6515.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Johnny Eads, Branch Chief
Research and Test Reactors Branch B
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No: 50-139
License No: R-73

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report No. 50-139/2006-201

cc w/encl.: See next page

Dr. Soma

Docket No. 50-139

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Test, Research, and Training
Reactor Newsletter
University of Florida
202 Nuclear Sciences Center
Gainesville, FL 32611

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U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

Docket No: 50-139

License No: R-73

Report No: 50-139/2006-201

Licensee: University of Washington

Facility: University of Washington Nuclear Reactor Facility

Location: More Hall Annex, University of Washington
Seattle, WA

Dates: July 13, 2006

Inspector: Craig Bassett

Approved by: Johnny Eads, Branch Chief
Research and Test Reactors Branch B
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

University of Washington
University of Washington Nuclear Reactor Facility
Report No: 50-139/2006-201

The primary focus of this routine, announced inspection was the onsite review of selected aspects of the safety programs developed for the decommissioning of the licensee's research reactor facility including: organizational structure and staffing, review and audit functions, decommissioning activities and work controls, radiation safety, emergency preparedness, physical security, reporting requirements, and transportation of radioactive. The licensee's programs were acceptably directed toward the protection of public health and safety, and in compliance with NRC requirements.

Organization and Staffing

- The licensee's organization was in compliance with the requirements specified in the Technical Specifications and Decommissioning Plan and the current staffing level was acceptable.
- The Decommissioning Contractor has followed the schedule and currently the decommissioning is scheduled to be completed by the end of September.

Review and Audit and Design Change Functions

- The review and audit functions outlined in the Technical Specifications and Decommissioning Plan were being completed by the Technical and Safety Committee as required.
- The change review and approval process was focused on safety and met program requirements.

Decommissioning Activities and Work Controls

- The decommissioning activities were being conducted in accordance with the applicable procedures and the work controls that had been implemented appeared to be appropriate.

Radiation Protection Program

- Surveys were being completed and documented as required by 10 CFR Part 20.1501(a) to permit evaluation of the radiation hazards that might exist.
- Notices and postings met regulatory requirements.
- The personnel dosimetry program was acceptably implemented and doses were in conformance with licensee and 10 CFR Part 20 limits.
- Portable survey meters, radiation monitoring, and counting lab instruments were being maintained and calibrated as required.
- Appropriate training had been provided to workers.
- The Radiation Protection Program being implemented by the Decommissioning Contractor satisfied regulatory requirements.

Emergency Preparedness

- Emergency response was sufficient for the radiological hazards present and as required by the Environmental Health and Safety Plan.

Physical Security

- The physical protection features of the University of Washington Nuclear Reactor met Technical Specifications and Decommissioning Plan requirements.

Inspection of Transportation Activities

- One shipment had been made from the site since the decommissioning project began and the radioactive material was shipped in accordance with the applicable regulations.

REPORT DETAILS

Summary of Plant Status

The NRC granted the licensee an Order Authorizing Dismantling of the Facility and Disposition of Component parts on May 1, 1995, contingent on funds being available to decommission. Funds were finally appropriated for decommissioning in 2004-2005, and the project was initiated earlier this year. During the inspection, the University of Washington Nuclear Reactor (UWNR) was in the process of being decontaminated and decommissioned. The reactor fuel had been shipped off site years ago and no fuel remained at the facility.

1. Organization and Staffing

a. Inspection Scope (Inspection Procedure (IP) 69013)

The inspector reviewed the following regarding the licensee's organization and staffing to ensure that the requirements of Technical Specifications (TS) Sections III.A and B and Decommissioning Plan Section 2.3 were being met:

- organization and staffing for decommissioning activities
- TS for the UWNR Facility, Amendment No. 16, dated July 28, 1994
- UWNR Decommissioning Plan (DP), revision 2, dated July 18, 1994
- administrative controls and management responsibilities specified in the TS and in the DP
- Annual Report for the UWNR for the period July 1, 2002, to June 30, 2003, dated July 23, 2003
- Annual Report for the UWNR for the period June 1, 2004, to August 18, 2005, dated August 18, 2005

b. Observations and Findings

In reviewing the TS and the DP the inspector noted that the President of the University and the Dean of the College of Engineering were designated as being responsible for managing the UWNR. Line responsibility for radiological safety at the facility included the UW Radiation Safety Officer (RSO). During active decommissioning, management of the facility and project was to be delegated to the Technical and Safety Committee (TSC) as stipulated in the DP. As outlined in the DP, the TSC was to be assisted in the oversight of the project by the University's Environmental Health and Safety Office, by the University's Capital Projects Office, and by the UW RSO. The Decommissioning Contractor (DC), the Executive Engineer for the project, and the Project Health Physicist were to report to the TSC through the UW Associate Construction Manager.

Through discussions with licensee representatives and contractor personnel, the inspector determined that management responsibilities and the organization at the facility met the requirements specified in the TS and the DP. The inspector verified that the President of the University and the Dean of the College of Engineering continued to retain overall responsibility for the facility. During decommissioning, direction of the facility was overseen by the TSC. An Executive Engineer, hired as a

consultant for the licensee, provided overall contractual direction and support to the decommissioning contractor.

Roles and responsibilities of the Decommissioning Contractor were also reviewed. The DC had responsibility for, and was performing, administrative, engineering, and decommissioning work, waste packaging and disposal, and was tasked to complete the final release survey.

The inspector determined that the current licensee and contractor staffing levels were adequate to support the activities conducted at the facility.

The inspector noted that DC personnel were following the schedule for completion of the decommissioning project. The schedule indicated that the decommissioning would be completed by the end of September.

c. Conclusions

The licensee's organization was in compliance with the requirements specified in the TS and the DP and the current staffing level was acceptable. The Decommissioning Contractor has followed the schedule and currently the decommissioning is scheduled to be completed by the end of September.

2. Review and Audit and Design Change Functions

a. Inspection Scope (IP 69013)

The inspector reviewed the following to ensure that the requirements of TS Section III.C were being completed as required:

- TSC review and audit functions
- UWNR DP, revision 2, dated July 18, 1994
- TSC meeting minutes since February 2004 to date
- TS for the UWNR Facility, Amendment No. 16, dated July 28, 1994
- Audits conducted by the DC, by UW contract personnel, and by UW auditors
- "Alternate Procedure Acceptance Plan," including Appendix A, "More Hall Reactor Decommissioning Plan Change Evaluation Form," issued by UW
- Completed Appendix A forms describing proposed changes to the DP and the accompanying evaluations
- NRC's "Order Authorizing Dismantling of Facility and Disposition of Component Parts," issued May 1, 1995
- NRC's "Order Modifying Requirements for Dismantling of Facility and Disposition of Component Parts," issued January 31, 2006
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-QA-01, "Quality Assurance Program Plan for the University of Washington More Hall Annex Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) Project," Rev. 0, dated February 12, 2006

b. Observations and Findings

(1) Review and Audit Functions

The inspector reviewed the TSC meeting minutes documenting the meetings that have occurred since February 2004. Since funding for the decommissioning project was approved, the TSC has been meeting nearly every month to consider issues arising during the final preparations for the project. It was noted that the members of the TSC were appointed by the Dean of the College of Engineering and included the RSO as required by TS Section III.C and DP Section 2.3.2. Records showed that safety reviews were conducted as required in the TS and the DP. Topics of these reviews were consistent with the requirements to provide guidance, direction, and oversight. Audits were also being conducted as required in those areas outlined in the TS and DP and at the required frequency. The inspector determined that the TSC was performing its function as required by TS Section III.C and DP Section 2.3.2.

(2) Design Change Functions

The inspector determined that changes to the DP required a staff review and evaluation followed by review and subsequent approval by the TSC and the Advising Health Physicist (HP). The inspector reviewed five changes that had been processed during the past four months. The inspector determined that the review and approval process had been completed in accordance with procedure and the changes had been reviewed and approved by the TSC as required. From the review, it was also apparent that the change review and approval process was focused on safety and met program requirements.

c. Conclusions

TSC membership and conduct of their DP review functions were in accordance with TS Section III.C and DP Section 2.3.2 requirements. The change review and approval process was focused on safety and met program requirements.

3. Decommissioning Activities and Work Controls

a. Inspection Scope (IP 69013)

To verify that the licensee was meeting the requirements of TS Section II and licensee procedures, the inspector reviewed selected aspects of:

- UWNR DP, revision 2, dated July 18, 1994
- TS for the UWNR Facility, Amendment No. 16, dated July 28, 1994
- requirements for maintaining safety during decommissioning of the UWNR
- Procedure Number (No.) UW-MCP-AD-01, "Project Management Plan for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Revision (Rev.) 1, dated February 22, 2006
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-EP-01, "Emergency Action Plan for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 1, dated March 21, 2006
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-HS-01, "Health and Safety Plan for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 1, dated February 17, 2006
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-OP-01, "Decommissioning Work Plan for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 0, dated February 17, 2006
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-OP-03, "Bioshield Removal Work Procedure for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 1, dated June 24, 2006

- Procedure No. UW-MCP-OP-08, "Decontamination Work Procedure for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 0, dated February 28, 2006
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-OP-10, "Reactor System Removal Work Procedure for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 0, dated February 28, 2006
- Project Manual, Volume 1, "More Hall Annex Decontamination and Decommissioning," UW#10492, dated October 27, 2005

b. Observations and Findings

The Executive Engineer, the Project Health Physicist, and the Decommissioning Contractor (DC) manager and supervisor shared responsibility for the industrial safety program. Safety equipment, worker training, and the safety program were provided by the DC and overseen by the Executive Engineer. The UW Associate Construction Manager and the UW Radiation Safety Officer also visited the site often to check on safety and working conditions. Noise levels in the work areas from scabbling and "jack hammer" equipment were maintained as low as possible so as not to disturb classes in nearby buildings. Air filtration and exhaust systems were in place to maintain a filtered air exchange rate of approximately 4 changes per hour. Appropriate protective equipment was specified and available.

During the inspection, the inspector toured the work areas and noted that workers were properly using the required equipment. Planned safety precautions for future work, such as excavations and confined space entries to characterize the piping system and tunnels were appropriate.

c. Conclusions

The decommissioning activities were being conducted in accordance with the applicable procedures and the established work controls appeared to be appropriate.

4. Radiation Protection Program

a. Inspection Scope (IPs 69013)

The inspector reviewed the following selected aspects of the radiation protection program to verify compliance with 10 CFR Parts 19 and 20, TS, and DC administrative requirements:

- radiological signs and posting
- UWNR DP, revision 2, dated July 18, 1994
- radiation safety training for contractor personnel
- personnel dosimetry records for those working at the facility
- TS for the UWNR Facility, Amendment No. 16, dated July 28, 1994
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-EP-01, "Emergency Action Plan for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 1, dated March 21, 2006
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-HS-01, "Health and Safety Plan for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 1, dated February 17, 2006

- Procedure No. UW-MCP-HS-02, "Respirator Protection Program for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 0, dated January 26, 2006
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-HS-03, "Occupational Radiation Monitoring and Control Procedure for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 0, dated March 8, 2006
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-RC-01, "Radiation Control Plan for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 2, dated May 1, 2006
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-RC-02, "Radiological Air Monitoring and Particulate Control Procedure for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 1, dated March 31, 2006
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-RC-03, "Radiation Work Permit Procedure for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 0, dated February 20, 2006
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-RC-04, "Routine Radiological Survey Procedure for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 1, dated March 15, 2006
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-RC-07, "External Dosimetry Procedure for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 0, dated March 1, 2006
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-RC-09, "Air Sampling Procedure for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 0, dated April 24, 2006

b. Observations and Findings

(1) Surveys

Daily, weekly, monthly, and other special contamination and radiation surveys, outlined in the procedures, were completed by HP personnel. Any contamination detected in concentrations above established action levels was noted and the areas were decontaminated. Results of the surveys were typically documented on survey maps and posted at the entrances of the various areas surveyed so that facility workers would be knowledgeable of the radiological conditions that existed therein.

During the inspection the inspector accompanied a contractor staff member on a tour of the Reactor Room and associated areas. The radiation levels noted by the inspector using a contractor survey meter were similar to those listed on survey maps of the areas. No anomalies were noted.

(2) Notices and Postings

During tours, the inspector observed that caution signs, postings, and controls were acceptable for the hazards involving radiation and contaminated areas and were implemented as required by 10 CFR 20, Subpart J. Through observations of and interviews with DC personnel, the inspector confirmed that personnel complied with the signs, postings, and controls. No unmarked radioactive material was noted in the facility. The inspector confirmed that available copies of NRC Form-3, "Notice to Employees," were the current version and were posted in the facility as required by 10 CFR Part 19.

(3) Dosimetry

The dosimetry program requirements and procedures were acceptable. A National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program accredited vendor was used to provide dosimetry for personnel and area monitoring. The inspector confirmed that dosimetry was being issued to staff and licensee contractors as required by 10 CFR 20.1502. Because the decommissioning activities were progressing quickly, the results from the first set of dosimeters sent to the vendor for processing were not available during the inspection. A review of Pocket Ion Chamber (PIC) results of exposures received by contract personnel indicated that the highest whole body exposure received by single individual was approximately 179 millirem. Based on the PIC results, the inspector concluded that occupational exposures were well within NRC limits specified in 10 CFR 20.1201 and DP Section 3 guidelines.

It was also noted that a baseline bioassay sample was collected from each person who would be working inside the Reactor Room or working with contamination material before commencing work. Follow-up and/or final bioassay samples were planned.

(4) Radiation Monitoring Equipment

The calibration and periodic checks of the portable survey meters, radiation monitoring, and counting lab instruments were performed by the DC staff or by certified vendors. The portable survey meter calibrations were tracked and controlled using a database. The inspector confirmed that the licensee's calibration procedures and frequencies satisfied TS Section II.A and 10 CFR 20.1501(b) requirements, and the American National Standards Institute N323 "Radiation Protection Instrumentation Test and Calibration" or the instrument manufacturers' recommendations.

The inspector reviewed the calibrations performed for selected instruments in use at the facility. The meters and monitors were calibrated semiannually and records were maintained as required. All instruments checked during the inspection had current calibrations appropriate for the types and energies of radiation they were used to detect and/or measure.

(5) Radiation Work Permit Program

The inspector reviewed the Radiation Work Permits (RWPs) that had been written and were being used during the decommissioning project. It was noted that the instructions specified in Procedure No. UW-MCP-RC-03, "Radiation Work Permit Procedure for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," had been adequately followed. Appropriate review by management and HP personnel had been completed. The controls specified in the RWPs were acceptable and applicable for the type of work being done.

(6) Radiation Protection Training

The inspector reviewed the training given to DC personnel. The training satisfied the requirements of 10 CFR Part 19 and the training program was acceptable.

(7) Radiation Protection Program

The DC's Radiation Protection Program and As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) Program were established and described in the DP and implemented through various procedures. The programs contained instructions concerning organization, training, monitoring, surveys, personnel responsibilities, material use, record keeping, emergencies, radiation safety, and maintaining doses ALARA. The ALARA program provided guidance for keeping doses as low as reasonably achievable which was consistent with the guidance in 10 CFR Part 20. The programs, as established, appeared to be acceptable.

c. Conclusions

The inspector determined that the radiation protection program being implemented by the licensee satisfied regulatory requirements because: 1) surveys were being completed and documented as required by 10 CFR Part 20.1501(a); 2) notices and postings met regulatory requirements; 3) the personnel dosimetry program was acceptably implemented and doses were in conformance with licensee and 10 CFR Part 20 limits; 4) portable survey meters, radiation monitoring, and counting lab instruments were being maintained and calibrated as required; and 5) appropriate training had been provided to workers.

5. Emergency Preparedness

a. Inspection Scope (IPs 69013)

The inspector reviewed selected aspects of the following to evaluate the UW emergency response capability:

- Environmental Health and Safety Plan (EH&S Plan), dated August 2002
- emergency response facilities, supplies, equipment and instrumentation
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-EP-01, "Emergency Action Plan for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 1, dated March 21, 2006

b. Observations and Findings

Although an NRC approved emergency plan was not required, the EH&S office maintained its own safety plan and the UW had an onsite medical clinic. The licensee indicated that fire, ambulance, and other medical services were provided by the city and county.

Training and tours of the UWNR were provided to emergency personnel prior to the start of active decommissioning. The licensee stated that the training was commensurate with the residual radiation hazard at the UWNR.

c. Conclusions

Emergency response was sufficient for the radiological hazards present as required by the EH&S Plan.

6. Physical Security

a. Inspection Scope (IP 81401)

The inspector reviewed selected aspects of the following to evaluate security of the UWNR facility:

- UWNR DP, revision 1, dated July 1994
- TS for the UWNR Facility, Amendment No. 16, dated July 28, 1994
- Procedure Number (No.) UW-MCP-AD-01, "Project Management Plan for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Revision (Rev.) 1, dated February 22, 2006
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-EP-01, "Emergency Action Plan for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 1, dated March 21, 2006
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-OP-01, "Decommissioning Work Plan for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 0, dated February 17, 2006

b. Observations and Findings

Although an NRC-approved security plan was not required, the UW Police Department maintained its own security program and provided security and control to all buildings on university property, including the UWNR facility.

Through discussions with licensee and contractor personnel, the inspector determined that the reactor room was maintained secure under a lock security system as required by the TS Section I.B.2 and DP Section 8. Access to the reactor room during working hours is controlled by one person, the Safety & Compliance Manager for LVI, and the fenced work area, as well as the entrance doors to the reactor room, were locked during non-working hours as required by TS Section I.B.3.

c. Conclusions

The physical protection features of the UWNR met TS and DP requirements.

7. Inspection of Transportation Activities

a. Inspection Scope (IP 86740)

The inspector reviewed selected aspects of the following to ensure that transportation requirements of 10 CFR, 49 CFR, and licensee procedures were being met:

- radioactive material accountability and transfer records
- radioactive material possession limits specified in licenses of consignees
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-WM-01, "Waste Shipment Plan for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 2, dated June 28, 2006
- Procedure No. UW-MCP-WM-02, "Radioactive Waste Packaging Procedure for the University of Washington More Hall Annex D&D Project," Rev. 1, dated June 28, 2006

b. Observations and Findings

Through records review and discussions with DC personnel, the inspector determined that one shipment had been made since the start of the decommissioning project. The records indicated that the radioisotope types and quantities were calculated and dose rates measured as required. The radioactive material shipment records reviewed by the inspector had been completed in accordance with Department of Transportation (DOT) and NRC regulations.

The inspector verified that the licensee maintained copies of shipment recipients' licenses to possess radioactive material as required and that the licenses were verified to be current prior to initiating a shipment. The training of the staff members responsible for shipping the material was also reviewed. The inspector verified that the shippers' had had training covering the DOT, IATA, and ICAO requirements.

c. Conclusions

Radioactive material was being shipped in accordance with the applicable regulations.

9. Exit Interview

The inspection scope and results were summarized on July 13, 2006, with members of licensee staff, the Decommissioning Contractor management and staff, and others associated with the project. The inspector described the areas inspected and discussed the inspection findings. No dissenting comments were received from the licensee. The licensee did not identify as proprietary any of the material provided to or reviewed by the inspector.

PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Licensee Personnel

S. Addison Radiation Safety Officer, Environmental Health and Safety Office, UW
J. Angeley Associate Construction Manager, Capital Projects Office - South Campus
 Construction Office, UW
B. Pankow Health and Safety Supervisor, Environmental Health and Safety Office, UW

Contractor Personnel

R. Arusell Site Superintendent/Project Manager, ICONCO/LVI Demolition Services, under
 contract with LVI Services, Inc.
T. Brautigam Radiation Safety Officer/Waste Management, Enercon Services, Inc., under
 contract with LVI Services, Inc.
D. Cronshaw LVI Project Manager/Director of Operations, LVI Services Inc.
M. Hayne Safety and Compliance Officer, under contract with LVI Services Inc.
D. Jordan Radiation Safety Officer, under contract with LVI Services Inc.
T. Meek Advising Health Physicist and Radiation Safety Officer for the D&D Project, under
 contract with UW
R. Moss Executive Engineer, Project Manager/Health and Safety Specialist, Energy
 Solutions, under contract with UW

INSPECTION PROCEDURE USED

IP 69013 Research and Test Reactor Decommissioning
IP 81401 Plans, Procedures, and Reviews
IP 86740 Transportation Activities

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

Opened

None

Closed

None

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

ALARA As Low As Reasonably Achievable
CFR Code of Federal Regulations
DC Decommissioning Contractor
D&D Decontamination and Decommissioning
DP Decommissioning Plan
EH&S Environmental Health and Safety
HP Health Physics/Physicist
IP Inspection Procedure
NRC Nuclear Regulatory Commission
PIC Pocket Ion Chamber
RSO Radiation Safety Officer
TS Technical Specification
TSC Technical and Safety Committee
UW University of Washington
UWNR University of Washington Nuclear Reactor