



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Box 25046

Denver Federal Center

Denver, Colorado 80225

October 10, 1979

Director
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive
Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76012

Subject: Licensee Event Report

Gentlemen:

In accordance with paragraph D of Reactor Facility License R-113 issued to the U.S. Geological Survey, this is to advise you of the loss of signal to the % Power channel. The % Power channel is one of the minimum reactor safety systems required by Table I of the Technical Specifications.

At 1136 hours, October 9, 1979, the operator noticed a loss of the % Power signal approximately one (1) minute after bringing the reactor to a power level of one (1) megawatt. The reactor was immediately shutdown. Other power channels showed normal readings.

An investigation revealed a coax connector in the % Power signal line was lying in a small quantity of water that had collected on the floor around the edge of the reactor tank. Apparently moisture in the connector had shorted the signal.

The connector was dried and cleaned. A current source was used to check the operation and calibration of the circuit. The scram was verified to be operable. Operations were resumed and the % Power channel functioned in a normal manner.

This event was reported by telephone to Mr. R.J. Everett of Region IV on October 9, 1979.

Sincerely,

Donald H. Rusling

Donald H. Rusling
Acting Reactor Administrator

cc: Director, IE
Washington, D.C.

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