

GENERAL ELECTRIC

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, P.O. BOX 460, PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA 94566

NUCLEAR ENERGY
ENGINEERING
DIVISION

April 21, 1982

H. R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C., 20555

REFERENCE: License R-33, Docket 50-73

Dear Mr. Denton:

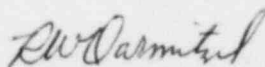
During a routine inspection of the General Electric Nuclear Test Reactor (NTR) prior to start-up on April 12, 1982, it was discovered that one of the two scram springs on Safety Rod #4 was broken. The broken spring did not prevent the rod from operating. However, the scram time for the rod was 432 msec versus a limit of 270 msec required by the technical specifications. There was no safety problem as only one of the four safety rods is required to scram the reactor. This event is considered to be reportable pursuant to Technical Specification 11.0(1) of License R-33.

The broken spring was replaced on April 12, and all four rods scrammed within the required time limit.

The rods receive scram tests monthly and are visually inspected on a daily basis. Safety Rod #4 had operated satisfactorily on its last test.

In order to prevent recurrence of this event, all of the scram and leader springs on the four safety rods will be replaced. This should be completed by June 1, 1982. In addition, a periodic replacement of the springs will be incorporated into the NTR preventative maintenance program.

Sincerely,



R. W. Darmitzel, Manager
Irradiation Processing Operation

RWD:s1
cc: USNRC-Region V



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