



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Radiation Safety Office
Washington, D.C. 20064
202-319-5206

15 March 1991

Docket No. 50-77
License No. R-31

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
Attn: Mr. James H. Joyner, Chief
Facilities Radiological Safety and Safeguards Branch
Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Subj: Tentative timetable for establishment of the schedule for
decommissioning The Catholic University of America reactor

Dear Mr. Joyner:

This letter is submitted in partial response to your letter of
11 February 1991 - specifically to paragraph three thereof.
Reply to the Notice of Violation which was appended to your
letter has been made separately.

Paragraph three of your letter requests that a timetable be
provided for establishment of the schedule for decommissioning
the (AGN-201) reactor at Catholic University. To assist your
understanding, some background material is provided.

The University desires to complete the decommissioning process as
soon as practicable. We need to do so at minimum cost,
consistent with the University's current financial situation and
the personnel resources available to deal with radiation safety
and the reactor decommissioning process. These efforts must also
be consistent with compliance with conditions of other NRC
licenses.

The Radiation Safety Office consists of the Director, one full-
time assistant, a part-time clerical and computer entry person,
and a part-time electronics technician for instrument
maintenance. It is responsible for administering four material
licenses, providing dosimetry service to about 30 research and
staff personnel, monthly survey of 23 radioactive material use

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The Catholic University of America
NRC Region I, Mr. Joyner

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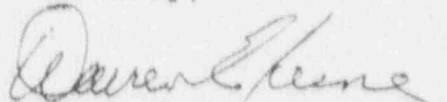
areas, processing approximately 150 incoming and 12 outgoing shipments per year, and managing the radioactive waste generated. The Radiation Safety Office is also responsible for Reactor Administration and must necessarily put radiation safety and reactor fuel safety and security issues ahead of the decommissioning schedule task.

The position of assistant to the Director (an entry-level health physics technician) has been vacant since 30 November 1990. We hope to hire by 1 May 1991 a new technician and have the technician trained by early summer.

In light of the points noted above, we plan to submit a reactor decommissioning plan (including the schedule) by 31 December 1991.

Your understanding is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Warren E. Keene, Ph.D.
Reactor Administrator and
Director of Radiation Safety

cc: Sr. Rosemary Donley, S.C.
Executive Vice President

Dr. William J. Kelnhofer, Chairman
Mechanical Engineering Department

Dr. John J. McCoy, Dean
School of engineering and Architecture