

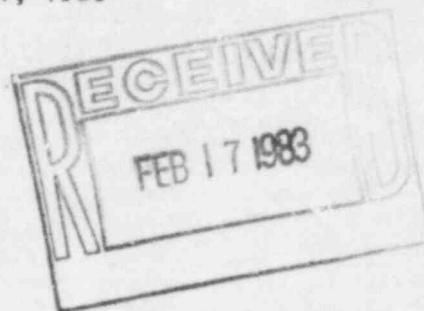


The
University of Oklahoma

**SCHOOL OF AEROSPACE, MECHANICAL
AND NUCLEAR ENGINEERING**

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February 14, 1983



Mr. G. L. Madsen
Chief, Reactor Projects Branch
USNRC - Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive
Suite 1000
Arlington, TX 76011

Dear Mr. Madsen:

We are replying to your letter dated January 18, 1983 and received by us on January 21 as requested. We have attempted to respond to the four items as specifically as possible. We, of course, wish to arrive at full agreement with you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance and that of your staff.

Very truly yours,

Davis M. Egle
Davis M. Egle
Director

DME/ec

cc Dr. Terrell
Professor Jensen
Dr. Klehr
J. James

Enclosure

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Item 1:

We understand this question to ask the real authority of the Reactor Safety Committee (RSC).

The RSC has the authority to request that the reactor be shut down at any time they are dissatisfied with an action or the lack of it. Such a request, made to the Reactor Director, must be honored until a meeting of the RSC, the Reactor Staff and the Director of AMNE resolves the issue to everyone's satisfaction. The Charter of the RSC is currently being revised to reflect specifically the above authority.

Our basic policy is, and really has been (though we have slipped on several occasions), that if a Tech. Spec. or Surveillance Test has not been met, the function will not be performed. Examples: A licensed operator has not taken the written test by the required date. Policy is he cannot operate the reactor until the test is completed. Or, the Log N-Period amplifier calibration is not completed by the required date. Then the reactor may not operate until the calibration is performed.

It is the function of the RSC, through audits of operations, to ensure the above policy.

Should an honest disagreement develop between the RSC, the Director of AMNE, and/or the Reactor Director, the RSC has the option of requesting a reading from the NRC or from a higher administrative authority at OU such as the VP for Administrative Affairs to which the RSC reports.

We plan to forward copies of the new charter to Region IV.

Item 2:

Based on a redefinition of the RSC's audit functions, the audit areas are now proposed as

1. Reactor Operations
2. Facilities Manual (procedures)
3. Maintenance and Design Changes
4. Surveillance Tests
5. Experimental and Sample Irradiation Forms

Specific audit procedures are being written at the present time.

These materials will also be forwarded to Region IV.

Under Reactor Operations, the scope of this audit includes:

- Reactor Operations Log
- All procedures which deal directly with operations
- Review of all experiments
- Sample irradiation forms

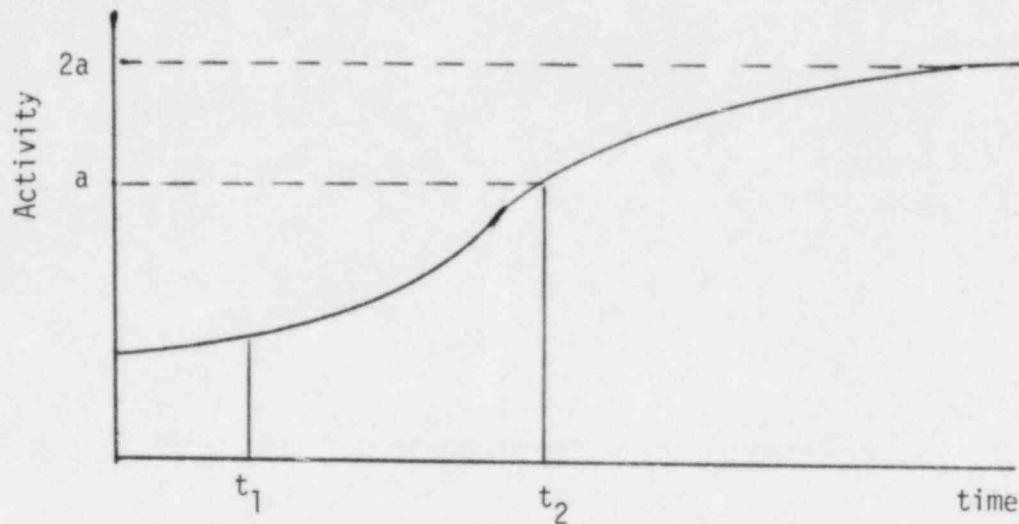
Item 3:

We accept your definition of weekly, monthly, yearly and are currently following it. We, of course, concur, that we were not in full compliance on several items, even by our definition.

Item 4:

We have now defined the "normal background" as follows: The activity present in the water as a function of operating time is to be measured next week (the procedure must be cleared by the RSC). Referring to the sketch

which shows the activity in water as a function of time, the reactor goes to full power at t_1 . The time t_2



represents the planned operating time (say one hour). Upon reaching full power the operator will set and record the scram setting at value $2a$. If the activity exceeds $2a$ before the time t_2 is reached the reactor is shutdown and the cause investigated.

To ensure the validity of the curve it will be measured again in 6 months.