



DEFENSE NUCLEAR AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20305

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Helen Hoyt, Esq., Chairman
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

In the Matter of
Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute
(TRIGA-Type Research Reactor)
Renewal of Facility License No. R-84
Docket No. 50-170

Dear Judge Hoyt:

This will respond to your October 29, 1982, request for a brief summary of the events which transpired during your visit to the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI). Earlier drafts of this letter were furnished to Ms. Macklin and Mr. Bachmann for their comments and concurrence. Their comments have been incorporated into the final product which you have before you.

As is indicated above, you and representatives of the NRC Staff, representatives of the Citizens for Nuclear Reactor Safety (CNRS), and members of CNRS toured the AFRRI TRIGA and Cobalt-60 facilities on October 29. The names and affiliations of those who participated in the tour are set forth in the enclosed listing.

The tour began at about 1:30p.m. with a group sign-in at the entrance to AFRRI. After sign-in, Major Smoker provided a brief overview of the planned tour. You indicated that you desired to observe the TRIGA in actual operation. The mechanics of this were discussed and agreement was reached among all

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Helen Hoyt, Esq., Chairman

concerned that those who desired to stay and observe the reactor in operation would be permitted to do so and those who chose not to remain would leave the rest of the group at the conclusion of the tour of the Cobalt-60 facility.

Following this brief introduction, the group proceeded to the reactor facility. Just outside of the facility, Major Smoker explained the model of the facility to provide the group with some perspective of what they were about to be shown. Following this, the group moved into the facility and looked at the control room. In addition to observing the equipment present in the control room, the group was shown a mach up of a fuel rod. Brief explanations of the functions of the control and safety equipment were also provided.

After exploring the control room, the group proceeded into the area in which the reactor is housed. Once again, a brief explanation of the parts of the reactor that the group was observing were provided.

After concluding the visit to the reactor room, the group left the reactor facility and proceeded downstairs to the Cobalt-60 facility. On our way to the facility we stopped outside of exposure room No. 2 and Major Smoker provided some brief descriptions of the safety interlocks and the functions of this part of the reactor facility.

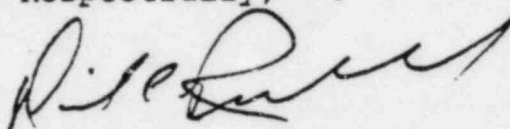
The visit to the Cobalt-60 facility included walking down onto the floor above the pool in which the cobalt is stored. From that vantage point, the group could observe the hoisting and control mechanisms as well as look down into the pool and see the blue light given off by the cobalt. In addition Major Smoker discussed the location of the cobalt facility with relation to the outside of the AFRRI complex and discussed very briefly the structural makeup of the roof and walls of the facility.

At the conclusion of the visit to the Cobalt-60 room, those members of the original group who had elected not to remain for the pulsing of the reactor departed. The portion of the group that desired to see the reactor in actual operation waited in the vicinity of the Cobalt-60 facility for another, unrelated tour group to catch up. After the second group had finished its tour of the cobalt facility, both groups proceeded to the reactor to observe a pulse. The reactor was pulsed and the tour was essentially concluded at that point.

Helen Hoyt, Esq., Chairman

I trust that the above narrative will satisfy the requirement to reflect in the record that which occurred during your visit. If you believe that it is necessary to supplement or otherwise change the above, I would be pleased to accomplish that. A draft of this letter was provided to counsel for the Intervenor (Ms. Macklin) and the NRC Staff (Mr. Bachmann) and both advised that this letter represents a fair and accurate account of what occurred.

Respectfully,



DAVID C. RICKARD
Deputy General Counsel

CY FURN:

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Service List

Tour Participants at AFRRI on 29 October 1982:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>
Judge Helen F. Hoyt	ASLB, NRC
Richard G. Bachmann	NRC Staff
Michael F. Crowley	CNRS
Elizabeth S. French	CNRS
William F. Lankford	CNRS
Laura W. S. Macklin	CNRS
David C. Rickard	DNA
Ronald R. Smoker	AFRRI