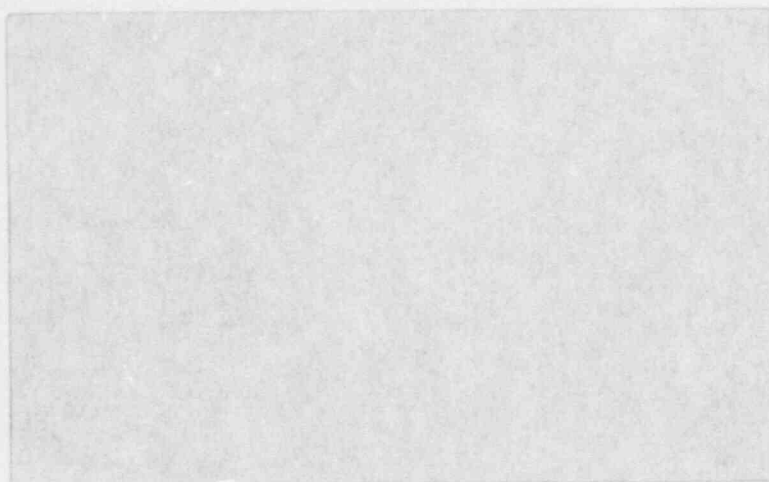
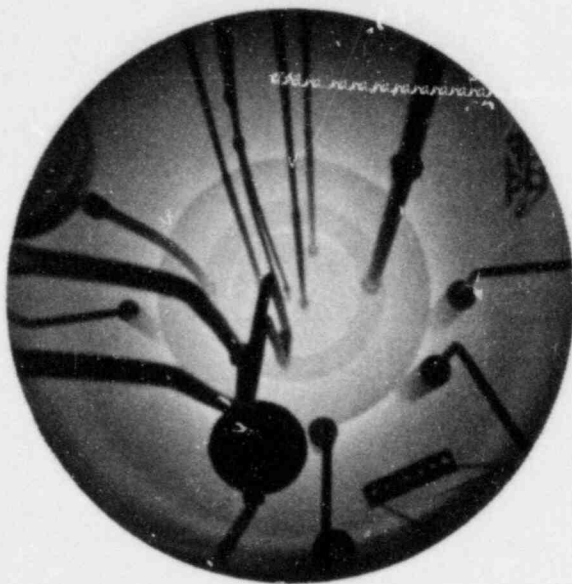


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# NUCLEAR REACTOR LABORATORY

## TECHNICAL REPORT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING  
DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

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1984 ANNUAL REPORT

of

The University of Texas at Austin  
Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory

January 1, 1984 - December 31, 1984

D. E. Klein, Director  
T. L. Bauer, Supervisor

Taylor Hall 104  
512/471-5136

January 1985

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## I. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared by the staff of the Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory (NETL), The University of Texas at Austin, to satisfy the reporting requirements of the U.S. Department of Energy Contract Number At-(40-1)-3919 and 10 CFR 50.59. The report covers the period from January 1, 1984 to December 31, 1984.

The Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory (NETL) is a part of the Mechanical Engineering Department in the College of Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. The program's major equipment consists of a 250 kW TRIGA Mark I reactor operated in pulsing and steady state modes. The reactor laboratory and adjacent laboratory areas are shown in Figures 1 and 2. Other equipment maintained by the NETL program includes two Cockcroft-Walton 14 MeV neutron generators, a Lockheed Aerojet subcritical assembly, and a 925 curie Co-60 irradiator. Isotopic neutron sources available include three californium-252 sources and six plutonium-beryllium sources. A wide array of detectors and electronic equipment are available to provide measurement and analysis capability of laboratory produced or maintained radiation sources.

Changes in the NETL program occur as a continuing response to achieve effective operation of various NETL projects and program development. A major planning effort was initiated during the 1984 calendar year to move the facility location from The University of Texas at Austin Main Campus to the Balcones Research Center. The proposed move is in response to needs for expansion of other educational programs and facilities on the Main Campus and the development of the research center as a major research and engineering site. A submittal was made to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in November for the approval of a combined Construction Permit and Operating License to be applied to the proposed facility. Completion of final plans and issuance of the requested permits is expected in 1985 with construction scheduled for 1986. Facility completion and acceptance of the new facility is projected for the spring of 1987.

Decommission and dismantling of the current facility is being studied with plans to be submitted in early 1985. Actual decommission and dismantling work is scheduled for the first months of 1987.

The proposed facility will provide laboratories for the TRIGA reactor, neutron generator, radiation measurement, preparation and processing of radioactive samples, and office space. Although the facility move consists primarily of moving the current TRIGA facility and other program activities into a single building at the Research Center, several improvements to the reactor facility are planned to extend facility capability. These include above ground shield structure for access to horizontal beam tubes, and increased power and pulse parameters. Plans are to utilize the current fuel and move some other components from the old to the new facility. Many of the components such as reactor structure, and instrumentation and control system are to be replaced for the proposed facility. A few components such as the rod drives will be reconditioned.

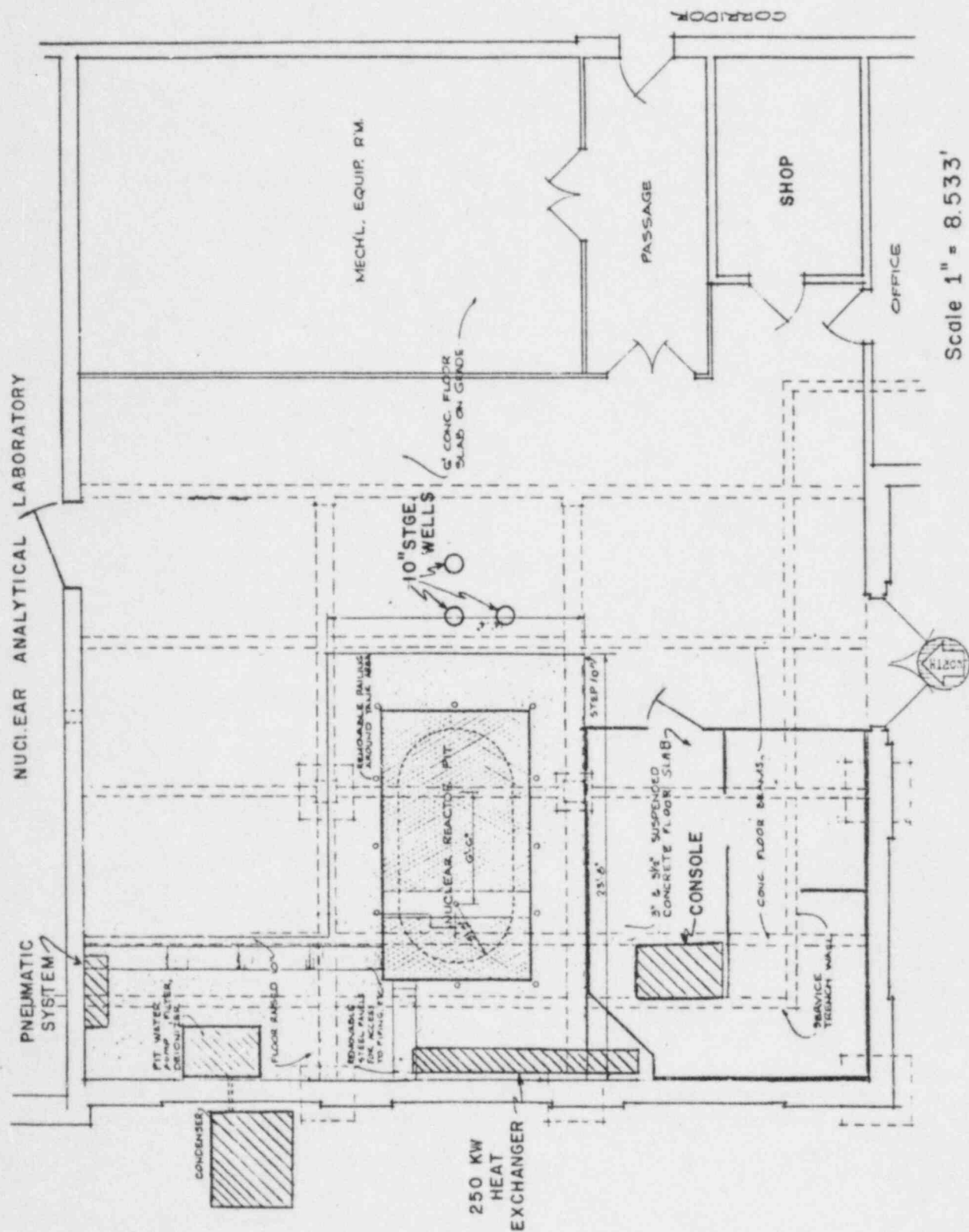


Fig. 1 TAYLOR HALL 131 FLOOR PLAN

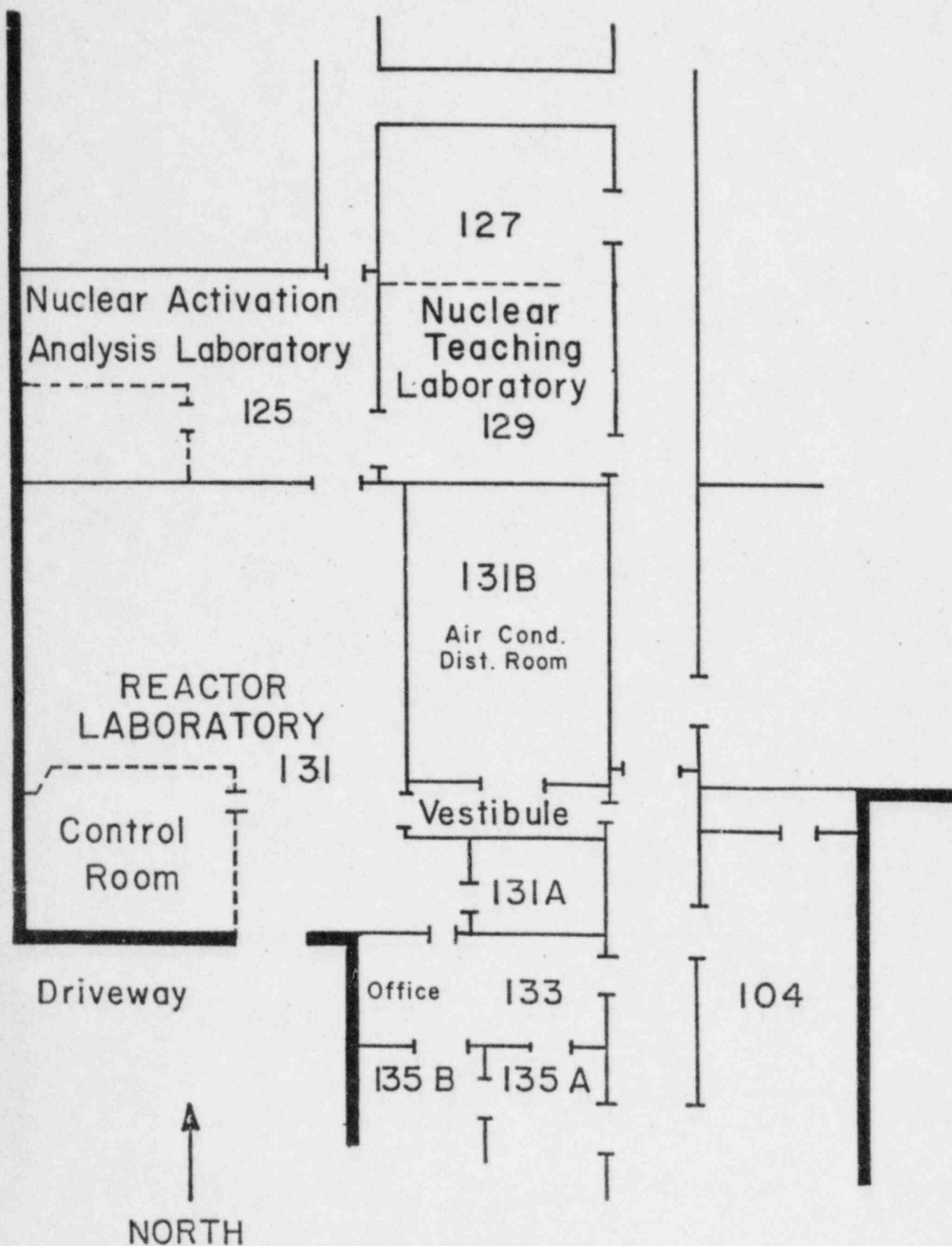


Fig. 2 TAYLOR HALL FLOOR PLAN  
ADJACENT ROOMS TO 131

## II. LABORATORY ADMINISTRATION

### A. Organization

The present organizational chart of the NETL program is presented in Figure 3. Budgeted NETL staff funding is provided for a Supervisor/Assistant Director, technician/operator, radiochemist, operator, and secretary. Budget support is divided into full time positions for supervisor, technician and radiochemist; half time for an operator; and quarter time for a secretary.

### B. Personnel

Personnel associated with the laboratory consist of NETL staff, faculty, students, and certain other university personnel. The personnel involved in the NETL program during the past year are summarized in Table I.

### C. Standing Committees

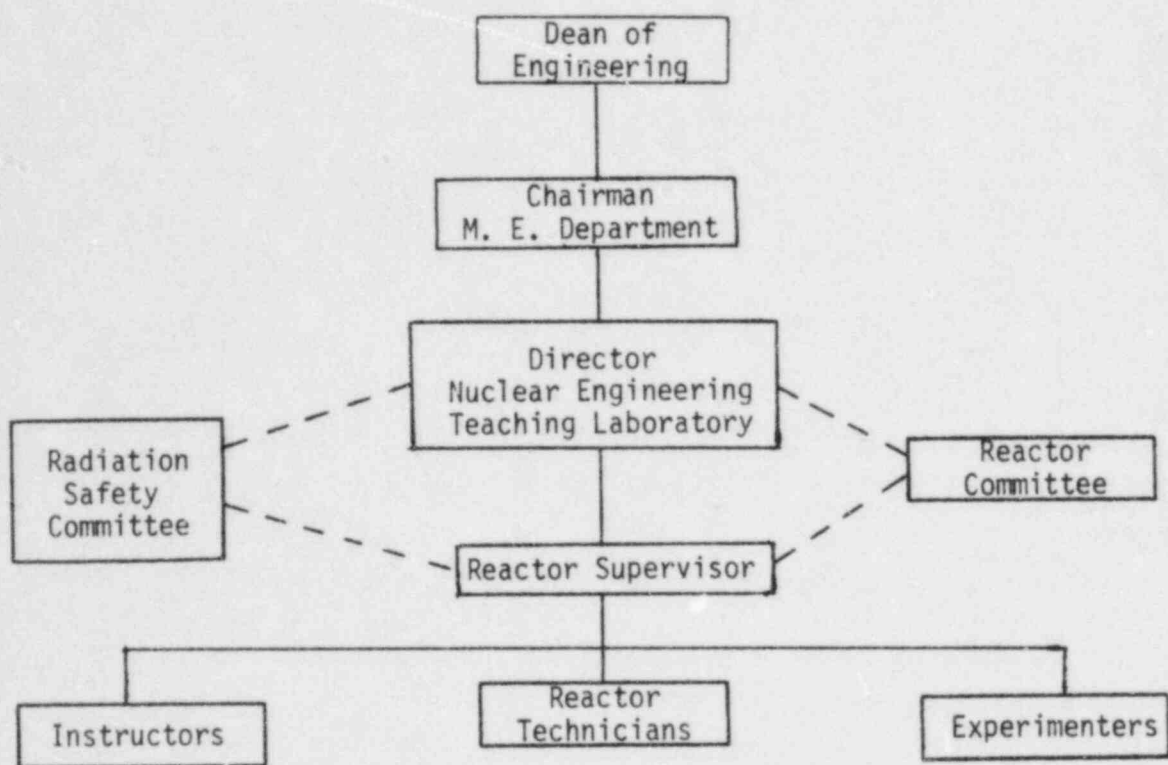
#### 1. Reactor Committee

The Reactor Committee convened and reviewed the activities occurring at the facility during each calendar quarter of this reporting period. Committee meeting dates were April 30, July 2, October 26 and January 29. Committee composition is shown in Table 2.

#### 2. Radiation Safety Committee

The Radiation Safety Committee convened and reviewed radiological safety priorities at the university during this reporting period. Committee meeting dates were April 10 and November 26. Committee composition is shown in Table 2.





\_\_\_\_\_ LINE OF RESPONSIBILITY  
----- CONSULTATION AND VETO POWER

Fig. 3 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Table I  
Facility Personnel

Staff and Faculty

Director	D.E. Klein
Assistant Director/Supervisor	T.L. Bauer
Nuclear Technical Specialist	M.G. Krause
Nuclear Technical Specialist	D.H. Eppes
Radiochemist	F.Y. Iskander
Assistant Professor	N.E. Hertel
Administrative Secretary	B.J. Babich

Support Personnel

Safety Officer	H.W. Bryant
----------------	-------------

Graduate Assistants

M. Ally
A. Gaines
A. Patterson-
Hine
T. Sanders
B. Kolda
R. Savage
E. Ibrahim
G. Polansky
L. Grater
N. Poor
D. Smith
R. Hartley

Student Assistants

J. Evans
T. Tran



Table 2  
Standing Committees

Reactor Committee

Chairperson:	H. L. Marcus
Member:	N. E. Hertel
Member:	D. E. Klein
Member:	J. O. Ledbetter
Student Member:	R. D. Manteufel (Thru 8/31/84)
Student Member:	N.D. Poor (After 9/1/84)
Ex officio member:	T. L. Bauer
Ex officio member:	H. W. Bryant
Ex officio member:	E. F. Gloyna

Radiation Safety Committee

Chairperson:	P. J. Riley (Thru 8/31/84)
Chairperson:	E. L. Sutton (After 9/1/84)
Member:	F. H. Bronson (Thru 8/31/84)
Member:	L. O. Morgan
Member:	D. E. Klein
Member:	R. L. Shipman
Member:	K. J. Caskey
Member:	G. Hoffman (After 9/1/84)
Ex officio member:	H. W. Bryant
Ex officio member:	P. T. Flawn

D. Report to the College of Engineering

Each year the Reactor Committee provides a report to the Dean of the College of Engineering describing activities of the committee and a review or assessment of the operation of specific portions of the NETL program concerning the reactor and other radiation producing equipment. Dr. Harris Marcus, Reactor Committee Chairman, summarized the activities during this period saying, "The program has again completed a busy, successful year. With the prospect of an upgraded facility at BRC, a great deal of enthusiasm exists within the Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory."

### III. LABORATORY DEVELOPMENT

#### A. Organization

Dr. Dale E. Klein continued as the Director and Dr. Thomas L. Bauer continued as Reactor Supervisor during the past year. B. J. Babich filled the Administrative Secretary position vacated by M. G. Morrison and D. H. Eppes filled the Nuclear Technical Specialist position vacated by N. Povio. The remaining technical personnel remained unchanged. Key faculty and university support personnel also remained unchanged.

#### B. Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory

The Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory is part of the Nuclear Engineering Program at The University of Texas.

The Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory's central feature is a Mark I TRIGA thermal fission reactor. Originally licensed by the Atomic Energy Commission to operate at 10 KW in 1963, the nuclear reactor and the associated laboratory equipment have been updated over the past years and the research capabilities of the Laboratory are now more diverse. In 1968, the facility license was amended to allow the TRIGA reactor to operate at a steady state power level of 250 kW which increased experimental capabilities.

Other radiation producing devices maintained by the Laboratory are a thousand curie Co-60 irradiator, vertical neutron beam tube, subcritical assembly, industrial x-ray source, 14 MeV neutron generator, and several isotopic neutron sources. Different types of radiation detection devices provide the capacity to monitor or analyze the various radiation sources.

One of the functions of the nuclear reactor and its associated equipment has been to teach and demonstrate the fundamentals of reactor operation. Several organized classes routinely utilize the reactor facility. Numerous other classes, organizations and groups schedule tours or demonstrations of the reactor facility. Courses utilizing the reactor and associated facilities are listed in Table 3. Approximately 700 persons were admitted into the reactor facility during the past year.

Table 3

Courses Utilizing the Reactor and Associated Facilities  
Mechanical Engineering Department

<u>Course Number</u>	<u>Course Description</u>
ME 361F	Introductory Nuclear Laboratory - studies in radioactive decay, activation, detection and measurement.
ME 361G	Reactor Operations - studies in nuclear reactor parameters, instrumentation characteristics and regulation.
ME 389R	Nuclear Engineering Laboratory - studies for graduate students in nuclear methods in measurement and analysis.
ME S389R	Special projects course for nuclear engineering laboratory studies as a summer course for foreign students.
ME 377K	Projects in Mechanical Engineering - individual study and experiment projects for undergraduates.
ME 397	Current Studies in Engineering - special projects course for graduate study of selected topics.

Additional Courses in Other Departments

GEO 388L	Isotope Geology - graduate course
CH 376K	Advanced Analytical Chemistry - senior level course in instrumental and analytical methods.
CE 390L	Environmental Analysis - graduate course
PHR 370K	Nuclear Pharmacy - senior level course in measurement and analysis methods with nuclear pharmaceuticals.

The use, operation, regulation, security, and monitoring of the Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory is controlled by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Nuclear Reactor Committee of The University of Texas, the Director of the Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory, the Radiation Safety Committee and the Texas Department of Health Radiation Control Board.

#### C. Neutron Activation Analysis Facilities

The Nuclear Analytical Laboratory has provided support for individual projects ranging from student laboratory support for advanced classes in chemistry, zoology, physics, and engineering to investigative projects in environmental monitoring. Scientific articles based upon the results of sponsored and unsponsored research by this laboratory have been published or accepted for publication in several journals and proceedings, and have been presented at conferences at the state, national and international level.

Radiation detection systems available include gamma ray spectroscopy HpGe detection acquisition and analysis system, multi sample - proportional counter, NaI detectors, Si(Li) detector, neutron detectors and associated electronic modules to accomplish several types of standard nuclear measurements. An important function of the laboratory is to support various research projects with the neutron activation analysis method and other related nuclear radiation research techniques.

#### D. Nuclear Radiation Laboratory

The Nuclear Radiation Laboratory is utilized by the students and staff of the Nuclear Engineering Program at The University of Texas at Austin. The laboratory is located in the Engineering Science Building. The main feature of the laboratory is a 14 MeV Texas Nuclear neutron generator. Three californium-252 neutron sources are also available for use. The facility, with installed neutron shielding, provides an area where students and staff can perform experiments utilizing not only the high energy neutrons from the neutron generator but fission spectrum neutrons from Cf<sup>252</sup>. In addition to the neutron generator and the californium sources, other smaller radioactive sources are also used within the confines of the Nuclear Radiation Laboratory.



#### IV. Facility Operations Summary

##### A. Operating Experience

During the period no significant deviations from normal operating conditions were observed aside from the apparent failure and subsequent replacement of the Percent Power UCIC (uncompensated ionization chamber) described in the facility changes section. The facility emergency plan was approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and implemented. Established operating procedures and other required procedures remained unchanged.

Licensed activities were performed by three persons with Senior Operator Permits, T.L. Bauer, M.G. Krause and N.A. Povio. Most operating activities were in support of nuclear engineering and reactor operations, research and education or demonstrations. No new experiments were proposed or approved. Excluding operation for demonstration, instruction or routine surveillance, the major experiment performed was neutron activation to support various research activities. Some operation also occurred for radioisotope production. Maintenance during the period consisted primarily of routine equipment repair and adjustments.

##### B. Reactor Shutdowns

Reactor shutdowns (scrams) occurring during the reporting period are summarized in Table 4, categorized according to the type of initiating event. Table 5 compares the number of inadvertent shutdowns during this reporting period to previous reporting periods.

##### C. Utilization

Reactor utilization data for this reporting period is summarized in Table 6. A summary of reactor utilization since initial criticality is shown in Table 7. Bar graphs comparing annual burnup and quantities of samples irradiated since initial criticality are shown in Figures 4 and 5.

##### D. Maintenance

During this reporting period maintenance consisted primarily of routine repair and adjustment.

TABLE 4  
REACTOR SCRAMS

Intentional	--	6
Operator Error	--	2
Instrument Error	--	3
Power Outage	--	0
Safety	--	0
Total	--	11

TABLE 5  
COMPARISON OF YEARLY INADVERTANT SCRAMS\*

$\frac{'63}{10}$	$\frac{'64}{9}$	$\frac{'65}{3}$	$\frac{'66}{4}$	$\frac{'67}{3}$	$\frac{'68}{11}$	$\frac{'69}{15}$	$\frac{'70}{11}$	$\frac{'71}{13}$	$\frac{'72}{6}$	$\frac{'73}{10}$
$\frac{'74}{4}$	$\frac{'75}{7}$	$\frac{'76}{5}$	$\frac{'77}{9}$	$\frac{'78}{11}$	$\frac{'79}{12}$	$\frac{'80}{7}$	$\frac{'81}{7}$	$\frac{'82}{8}$	$\frac{'83}{6}$	$\frac{'84}{5}$

\*Inadvertant scrams are defined as all scrams that were not intentionally initiated.

TABLE 6

## NUCLEAR ENGINEERING TEACHING LABORATORY

## PERFORMANCE DATA, 1984

	<u>Total Hours Reactor In Operation*</u>	<u>Total Burn-up (kW-hrs)</u>	<u>Number of Samples Irradiated</u>
First Quarter 1984	54.4	6576	157
Second Quarter 1984	46.4	5776	141
Third Quarter 1984	43.5	6504	185
Fourth Quarter 1984	35.3	5950	184
TOTAL	179.6	24806 (1.03 MWD)	667

---

\*Time Reactor Key on; includes certain experimental setup time, maintenance, etc.



TABLE 7  
COMPARISON OF PREVIOUS UTILIZATION DATA

<u>Year</u>	<u>Hours Reactor In Operation*</u>	<u>Burn-up (kW-hrs)</u>	<u>Number of Samples Irradiated</u>
1965-66**	104.5	251	63
1966-67	150.0	595	202
1967-68***	342.6	28,168	2449
1968-69	260.8	49,985	1452
1969-70	222.0	36,477	1640
1970-71	262.5	53,912	2990
1971-72	222.8	48,389	1946
1973	318.6	45,794	1347
1974	226.1	27,641	778
1975	207.0	20,450	363
1976	135.7	11,312	468
1977	139.3	7,509	164
1978	171.9	26,870	178
1979	311.6	72,616	1568
1980	184.1	11,760	150
1981	258.5	18,165	330
1982	247.6	16,150	294
1983	260.2	24,028	477
1984	179.6	24,806	667
TOTAL	4,205.2	524,878	17,526
		(21.9 MWD)	

---

\*Includes experimental setup time, maintenance, etc.

\*\*1965 was the first year the utilization data was maintained.

\*\*\*Reactor upgraded from 10 to 250 kW during this academic year.

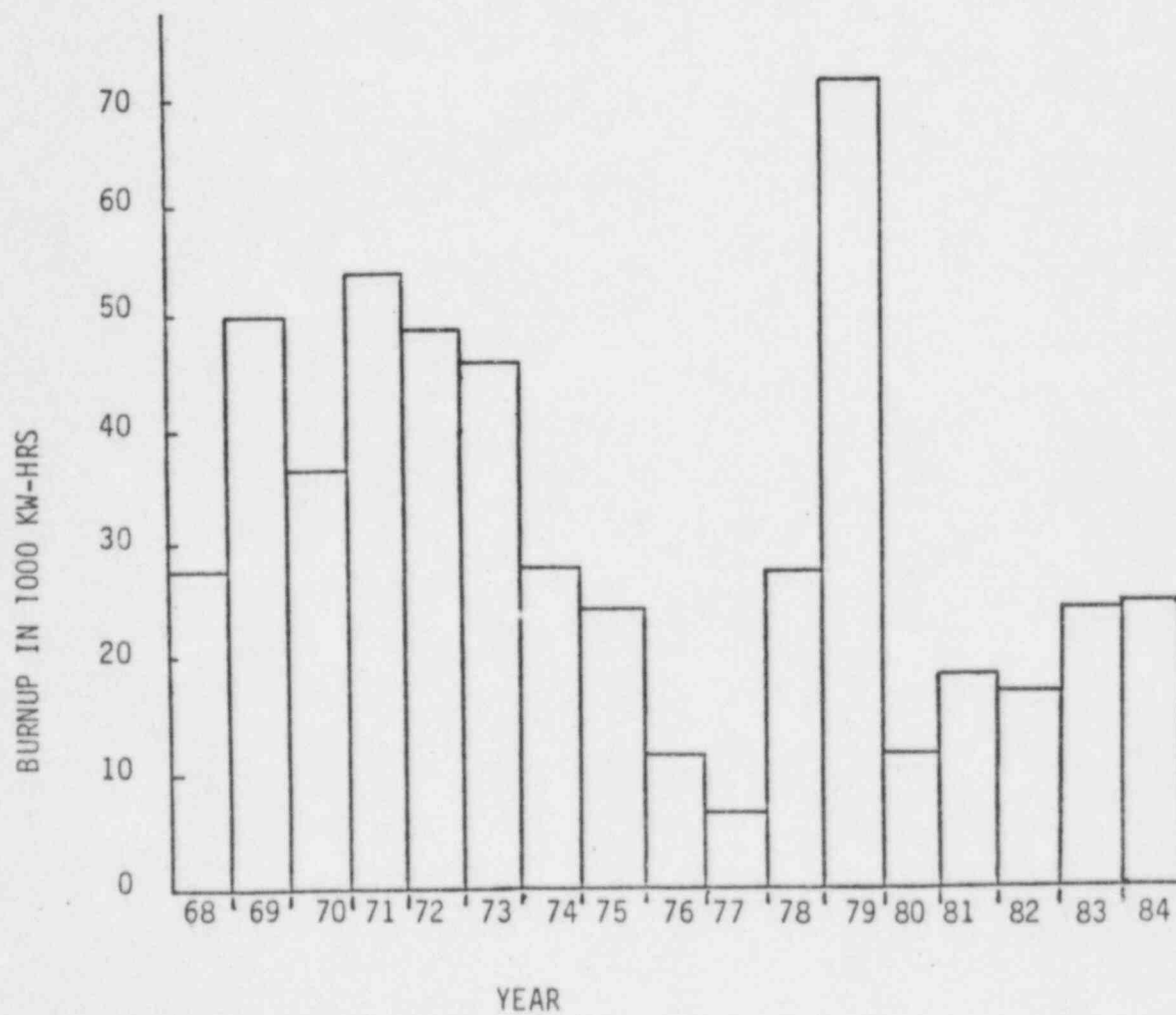


Fig. 4 TOTAL BURNUP PER YEAR

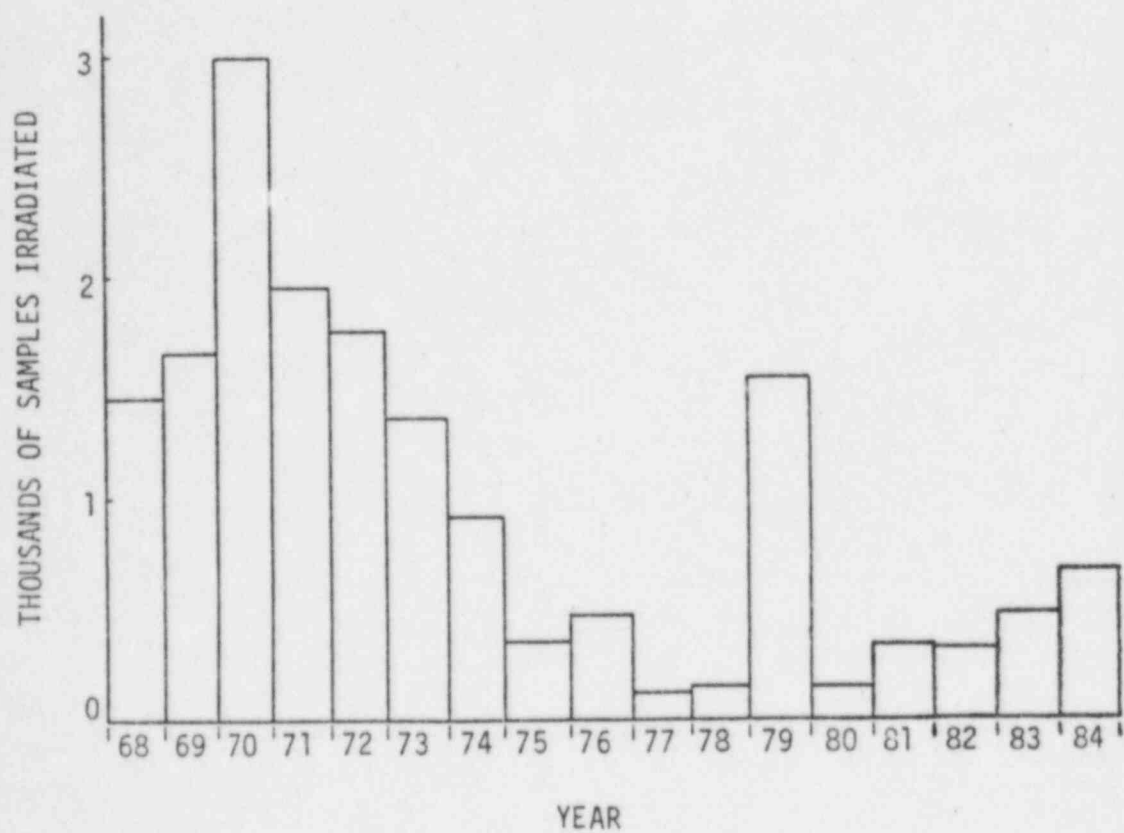


Fig. 5 NUMBER OF SAMPLES IRRADIATED

#### E. Facility Changes

The uncompensated ionization chamber in the percent power channel was replaced with a compensated ionization chamber. The replacement chamber had previously operated as the log power channel before installation of the wide range fission chamber. Replacement of the uncompensated ionization chamber was indicated by several sporadic decreased readings of power level (~5% low) and subsequent measurement of chamber impedance. Resistance measurements supported the indication that an insulation, connector, or chamber condition may have caused the observed loss of sensitivity. No unreviewed safety questions are presented by replacement of the defective chamber.

Operation of the reactor in the pulse mode has been discontinued until the operation characteristics of the compensated chamber as related to pulsing is established. This evaluation is a low priority since current activities of the facility do not require pulsing and future facility operation will be re-evaluated in relation to the new facility proposal.

#### F. Radiation Exposures

A summary of radiation exposures during this reporting period to facility personnel, students, and visitors is shown in Table 8. The average exposure per individual and the greatest exposure per individual for each group is summarized in Table 9. No exposures in excess of the limits of 10CFR20 occurred during this period.

#### G. Area Radiation Surveys

An annual summary of the normal radiation levels measured in the laboratory is shown in Table 10. The results of routine surface and pool water contamination surveys are summarized in Table 11. Environmental surveys performed outside the laboratory are summarized in Table 12.

#### H. Radioactive Effluents

##### 1. Liquid Waste

No liquid radioactive waste was discharged during the reporting period.

TABLE 8  
SUMMARY OF RADIATION EXPOSURE

Range of Exposure in REM	Number of Individuals		
	Staff	Students	Visitors
Non-measurable exposure	13	21	720
0.0 - 0.1	0	0	0
0.1 - 0.25	0	0	0
0.25 - 0.5	0	0	0
0.5 - 0.75	0	0	0
0.75 - 1.0	0	0	0
1.0 - 2.0	0	0	0
2.0 - 3.0	0	0	0
Greater than 3.0	0	0	0

\*Staff and Students: Film measured exposures below 10 mrem x or  $\gamma$ , 40 mrem hard  $\beta$ ; 20 mrem fast n, or 10 mrem thermal n during each reporting period.  
Visitors: Pocket dosimeter exposures at or below 10 mrem.

TABLE 9  
RADIATION EXPOSURE ANALYSIS

<u>Group</u>	<u>Average Radiation Exposure Per Individual (mrem)</u>	<u>Greatest Radiation Exposure Per Individual (mrem)</u>
Staff	$\leq 10^{(1)}$	$\leq 10^{(1)}$
Students	$\leq 10^{(1)}$	$\leq 10^{(1)}$
Visitors	$\leq 10$	$\leq 10$

(1) Exposures less than minimum detectable level (10 mrem x-γ) during each film badge reporting period.

TABLE 10

## LABORATORY RADIATION LEVELS

<u>Location</u>	<u>Average (mR/hr) <sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>Maximum (mR/hr) <sup>(2)</sup></u>
Wall Near Control Panel	$1 \times 10^{-3}$	$1 \times 10^{-1}$
Wall Near Water Purification System	$7 \times 10^{-3}$	$6 \times 10^{-1}$
Ceiling Directly Above Reactor Pool	$6 \times 10^{-2}$	$5 \times 10^0$

(1) Determined using results of fixed film badge monitors averaged over one year.

(2) Annual film measured exposure divided by effective annual reactor full power hours.

TABLE 11

## LABORATORY CONTAMINATION LEVELS

<u>Location</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Floor	<u>&lt;</u> 25 dpm	<u>&lt;</u> 50 dpm
Work Surfaces	<u>&lt;</u> 25 dpm	<u>&lt;</u> 50 dpm
Pool Water (1)	<u>&lt;</u> 112 pCi/l	<u>&lt;</u> 500 pCi/l

(1) Measured when reactor not operating.



TABLE 12  
ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS

<u>Location</u> (1)	<u>Average (mrem/hr)</u>	<u>Maximum (mrem/hr)</u>
1	0.01	0.01
2	0.01	0.01
3	0.01	0.04
4	0.01	0.01
5	0.01	0.01
6	0.01	0.01
Waller Creek (2)	8 pCi/ℓ	32 pCi/ℓ

(1) Monitoring locations shown in Figure 6.

(2) Water sample from stream flowing through campus approximately 0.25 miles from reactor facility.

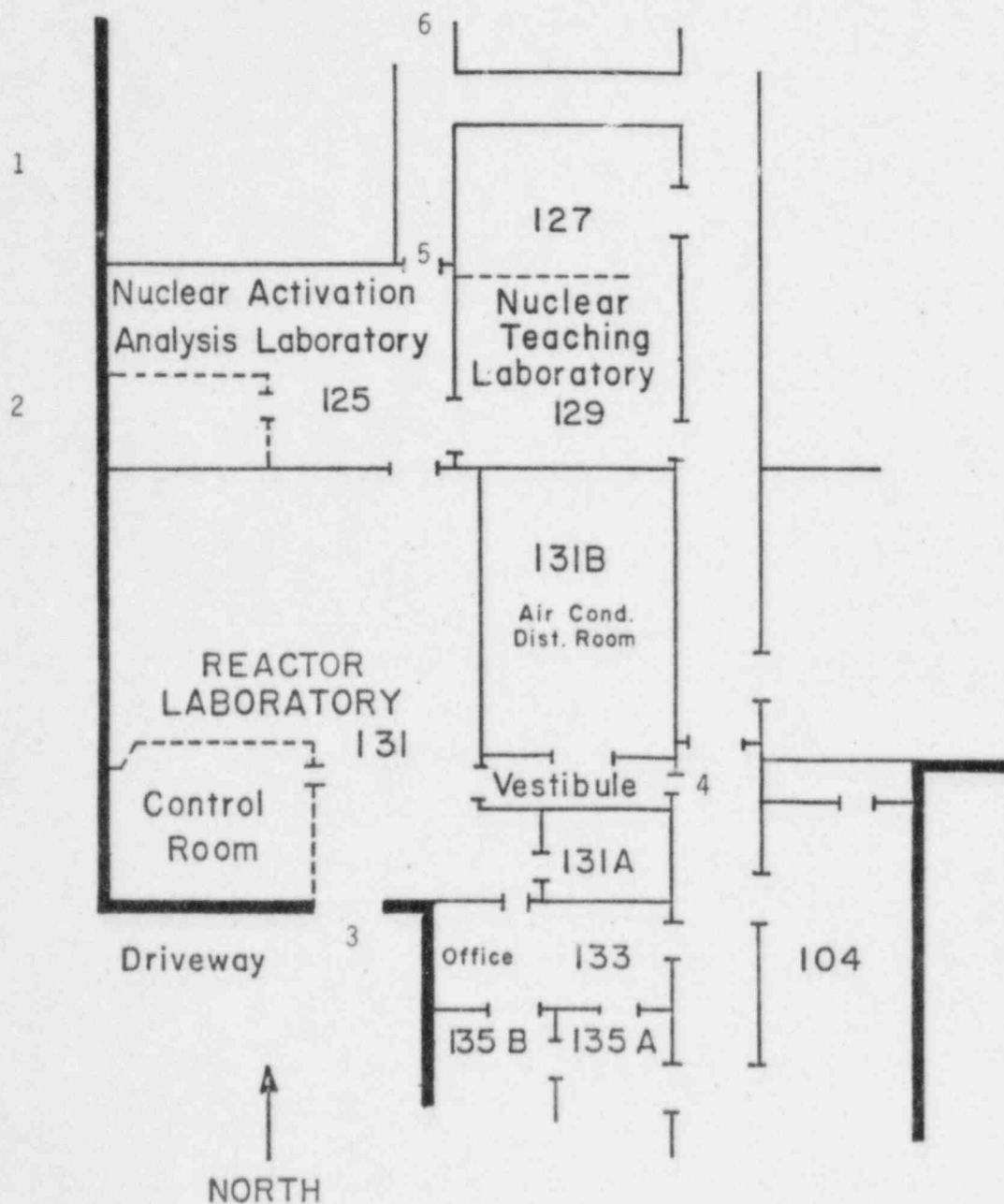


Fig. 6 TAYLOR HALL ENVIRONMENTAL  
SURVEY LOCATIONS

## 2. Gaseous Wastes

Gaseous discharge during the reporting period is limited to leakage of  $\text{Ar}^{41}$  from the reactor laboratory. The total estimated amount of radioactivity released was calculated based on experimental equilibrium  $\text{Ar}^{41}$  concentration measurements ( $4 \times 10^{-8} \text{ Ci/m}^3$ ) adjusted by the number of full power hours operated during the period. Although air leakage from the laboratory is restricted, an effective air change rate of two per hour ( $0.37 \text{ m}^3/\text{sec}$ ) is assumed with dilution at the release point ( $0.14 \text{ sec/m}^3$ ). A summary of the calculated radioactive gaseous discharges during the reporting period is presented in Table 13.

## 3. Solid Waste

The activity and amounts of solid waste discharged during the reporting period are summarized in Table 14. All solid waste materials were packaged and shipped, along with radioactive waste generated in other departments, by the University Safety Office.

TABLE 13  
MONTHLY SUMMARY OF GASEOUS WASTE DISCHARGES

Date of Discharge	Total Estimated Radioactivity Released (Curies) ( $\mu\text{Ci}$ )	Total Estimated Quantity of Argon-41 Released (Curies) ( $\mu\text{Ci}$ )	Estimated Average Atmospheric Diluted Concentration of Argon-41 at Point of Release ( $\mu\text{Ci/cc}$ )	Percent of the Applicable MPC for Diluted Concentration of Argon-41 at Point of Release (%)	Total Estimated Quantity of Radioactivity in Particulate Form with Half-Life >8 Days (Curies)	Average Concentration of Radioactive Particulates Released With Half-Life >8 Days (Curies)	Estimated Average Concentration of Other Significant Radionuclides in Discharge if >20% of the Applicable MPC ( $\mu\text{Ci/cc}$ )	Percent of MPC if the Estimated Release was >20% of the Applicable MPC
Jan.	258	258	$1.4 \times 10^{-11}$	$3.4 \times 10^{-2}$	None	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Feb.	1176	1176	$6.3 \times 10^{-11}$	$1.6 \times 10^{-1}$	None	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
March	4	4	$2.5 \times 10^{-13}$	$6.2 \times 10^{-4}$	None	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
April	345	345	$1.8 \times 10^{-11}$	$4.6 \times 10^{-2}$	None	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
May	213	213	$1.1 \times 10^{-11}$	$2.8 \times 10^{-2}$	None	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
June	706	706	$3.8 \times 10^{-11}$	$9.4 \times 10^{-2}$	None	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
July	11	11	$6.1 \times 10^{-13}$	$1.5 \times 10^{-3}$	None	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
August	761	761	$4.1 \times 10^{-11}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-1}$	None	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Sept.	651	651	$3.5 \times 10^{-11}$	$8.7 \times 10^{-2}$	None	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Oct.	0	0	0	0	None	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Nov.	668	668	$3.6 \times 10^{-11}$	$8.9 \times 10^{-2}$	None	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Dec.	635	635	$3.4 \times 10^{-11}$	$8.5 \times 10^{-2}$	None	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
ANNUAL VALUE	5428	5428	$2.9 \times 10^{-11}$	$6.0 \times 10^{-2}$	None	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

TABLE 14

## ANNUAL SUMMARY OF SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Shipment Date</u> (1)
45 $\mu$ Ci	2 ft <sup>3</sup>	March 5, 1985

(1) All shipments made to Isotex in Friendswood, Texas.

## V. Laboratory Inspections

### A. NRC Inspection February 27, 1984

The inspection examined the activities conducted under license SNM-180. The inspection consisted of selective examination of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel and observations by the inspector. During the scope of the inspection, one violation was identified. The violation originated from difference in the frequency and allowable tolerance specified on calibrations of survey instruments as stated in License R-92 and License SNM 180. Until this difference is eliminated, calibrations shall be performed to meet the more stringent requirement as stated in license SNM 180.

### B. TDH Inspection September 17-18, 1984

The inspection consisted of a review of activities and radioactive materials used at The University of Texas at Austin as authorized by TDH License.

## VI. Public Service Activities

### A. Summer High School Science Teacher Symposium

The NETL staff organizes and supervises an annual two week symposium designed to familiarize high school science teachers with the theory and technology associated with energy resources today. Graduate college course credit is given to all participants who successfully complete the course. The program is funded by various electric utility companies in Texas. Approximately thirty (30) teachers attend the symposium every year.

### B. Lectures and Presentations

On numerous occasions during 1984 the NETL staff talked to various organizations about subjects including but not limited to: "Nuclear Reactor Safety," "Nuclear Engineering and Society," "Research and Development of Energy Resources," "Energy and the Environment," and "What happened at Three Mile Island."

### C. Reactor Facility Tours

During 1984, 720 persons visited the laboratory. The largest group visiting the laboratory were persons attending the Texas Energy Science Symposium. Numerous high school students also toured the facility during an event called The World of Engineering, designed to recruit students into the field of Engineering. Students from several local high schools and students from several non-engineering related college courses visited the facility. Numerous college engineering related classes and several student engineering organizations also toured the facility. Safety personnel with Austin Fire Department, UT Police Department, UT Safety Office and the Texas Department of Health also visited the facility to remain familiar with the laboratory and emergency response procedures unique to the facility.



## VII. Research Activities

The Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory pursues research of both sponsored and unsponsored projects in several different areas. The following section lists research projects in which the laboratory has participated. Major research funding or grants are presented in Table 15.

A. The U.S. Department of Energy has provided research support by providing reactor fuel cycle assistance for the currently operating reactor core at The University of Texas at Austin TRIGA reactor.

B. The Electric Utility Companies of Texas have sponsored Summer High School Science Teachers Symposium, a program designed to familiarize these teachers with the theory and technology of energy sources.

C. Heat Transfer and Friction Factor Analysis for Artificially Roughened Surfaces

Personnel: Dale Klein, NETL  
J. Parker Lamb, Mechanical Engineering  
Mike Krause, NETL  
Gary Polansky, Mechanical Engineering

Sponsored by: Center for Energy Studies  
National Science Foundation  
University Research Institute

Description:

The proposed research is to determine the heat transfer and friction characteristics for surfaces with discrete roughness geometry. Two major aspects are to be examined in that this is both an experimental and an analytical investigation. Values of  $R(h^+)$  and  $G(h^+)$  in the universal velocity and temperature profiles will be examined. New experimental techniques have been developed at The University of Texas at Austin to measure local heat transfer values surrounding discrete roughness elements. A test assembly to examine artificially roughened surfaces is being designed. In addition, a new analytical method has also been developed to determine  $R(h^+)$  and  $G(h^+)$  values



TABLE 15  
RESEARCH FUNDING

Texas Atomic Energy Research Foundation	
1/83 - 8/84	18,386
9/82 - 8/84	33,732
Department of Energy -- Fuel Program	
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Center for Energy Studies	
5/82 - 5/84	10,000
9/83 - 8/84	6,600
6/84 - 8/84	1,400
National Science Foundation	
2/81 - 7/84	76,376
Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority	
9/84 - 8/85	9,736
University of Texas	
College of Engineering Equipment Fund 9/83 - 8/84	21,400
Center for Fusion Engineering	
5/83 - 5/84	38,094
DOE Fellowship Program (Institutional Allowance)	
	4,000
University Research Institute	
9/84 - 8/85	6,000
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$225,724

without making detailed velocity and temperature profile measurements. Analytical predictions will be made utilizing fundamental parameters in boundary layer theory coupled with the latest information on rough surfaces using integral techniques. Results from the experimental and analytical methods will be compared in order to gain insight as to the dominant mechanism involved for the use of discrete rough surfaces. This research has fundamental application for heat transfer augmentation.

D. Measurement of Vanadium in Egg White Diets

Personnel: T.L. Bauer, NETL  
M. Ally, NETL

Sponsored by: J.H. Freeland, Home Economics  
Department, UT at Austin

Description:

Nutritional studies on takeup and retention of some trace elements in the human diet include the elements of V and Mn. Measurements were performed to determine the vanadium content of a test diet prepared primarily from egg whites.

E. Interlaboratory Comparison of Element Analysis of Coal

Personnel: T.L. Bauer, NETL  
F.Y. Iskander, NETL

Sponsored by: C. Ho, Bureau of Economic Geology

Description:

Several core samples containing coal materials and other rock material from Texas sites were analyzed by INAA. Thirty-eight (38) elements were determined in the samples and compared to analysis performed by alternate analytical laboratory methods.

F. Analysis of Elements in Cigarette Tobacco, Filter, Ash and Paper

Personnel: F.Y. Iskander, NETL  
T.L. Bauer, NETL

Sponsored by: NETL

Description:

Cigarettes from several countries and various domestic brands, including different brand types, were analyzed by INAA methods. Results were examined and compared to values reported in the literature. Approximately thirty elements were identified. Measurement determined the element content in the unsmoked tobacco, the residual ash after smoking, the residue in the filter and the paper from which the tobacco was removed. Presence of some elements indicative of additives at either the processing or production stage were noted although evidence was not direct.

G. Calcium Content in Cereal Matter

Personnel: F.Y. Iskander, NETL  
M.M. Morad, Texas A&M

Sponsored by: Texas A&M University

Description:

Traditional method for tortilla and most corn snack-based food involve cooking of corn with calcium hydroxide for 12 - 18 hours. A new method, pre-soaking technique, was introduced in which a 12 hour steeping step was followed by 80 minutes of cooking. By this method, up to 40% of energy expended during alkali cooking of corn can be achieved and produce a similar quality product. INAA was employed to evaluate Ca content of starting material, during cooking and in the final product.

#### H. Cadmium and Calcium Uptake Studies

Personnel: E. Sorenson, Pharmacy Dept. UT  
D. Acosta, Pharmacy Dept. UT  
T.L. Bauer, NETL

Sponsored by: John Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing

##### Description:

Radioactive tracers of Cd104, Ca45, and Cd115 were employed in studies of binding and transport related to cell uptake mechanisms. Several experiments with cell cultures of rat hepatocyte cells were performed to determine the effect of calcium presence on the intake of the toxic element cadmium.

#### I. Fission Product Absorption in Continuously Processed Fission Suppressed Fusion Hybrid Reactor Blankets

Personnel: Dale Klein, NETL  
J.W. Davidson, NETL  
Ann Patterson-Hine, NETL

Sponsored by: Department of Energy Fellowship Center for Fusion Engineering

##### Description:

The effect on blanket performance of fission product absorption in lithium/molten salt hybrid reactor blankets is being investigated. Neutron flux spectra in blankets of varying fuel and fission product compositions are being determined using the discrete ordinates codes, ANISN, and DOT-IV with multigroup cross section data from VITAMIN-C. Flux levels and spectrally weighted cross section libraries for the blanket materials, fuel, and fission products will be established for use in the depletion analyses. Generation and depletion of the various isotopes in the blanket will be calculated using ORIGEN. A lumped fission product model will be used in the transport calculations; however, detailed information concerning the constituents of the lump will be included in the depletion analysis.

In addition to full and partial reprocessing of the molten salt, alternative processing concepts will be investigated. A parametric study of the effects of processing performance will be carried out. This study will result in the characterization of the fission product concentration in the molten salt with respect to isotopics, neutron absorption, and the effects on blanket parameters such as the tritium and fissile breeding ratios.

J. Pressure Drop and Heat Transfer Measurements of Liquid Metal Flowing in a Packed Bed Under the Influence of a Magnetic Field

Personnel: Dale Klein, NETL  
Tom Sanders, NETL  
Larry Grater, Mechanical  
Engineering  
Mike Crawford, Mechanical  
Engineering

Sponsored by: Center for Fusion Engineering  
Texas Atomic Energy Research  
Foundation

Description:

The flow of electrically conducting fluids through porous media in the presence of a magnetic field has recently begun to generate significant interest due to potential applications for fusion reactors. This study is designed to examine the pressure drop and heat transfer from a liquid metal (NaK) flowing through a packed bed of stainless steel spheres under the influence of a transverse magnetic field. Results of this investigation should have direct applications on the design of fusion breeder blankets using liquid metal flowing around spheres of fertile material.

K. CO<sub>2</sub> Production for Enhanced Oil Recovery Using Texas Lignite and Nuclear Process Heat

Personnel: B. Kolda, NETL  
Dale Klein, NETL

Sponsored by: Center for Energy Studies

Description:

Carbon dioxide miscible displacement is one method of enhanced oil recovery which can increase ultimate production beyond that obtained from primary and secondary methods. Current sources of CO<sub>2</sub> for this application are obtained from natural CO<sub>2</sub> wells, by-product CO<sub>2</sub> and on-site generation of CO<sub>2</sub>. This project is to examine the feasibility of obtaining CO<sub>2</sub> and other valuable by-products from Texas lignite using a high temperature gas-cooled nuclear reactor for process heat. An integrated concept will be developed to include the nuclear process heat and the valuable by-products converted from the Texas lignite.

L. Examination of Reversed-Field Pinch Reactor using a Homopolar Generator as a Power Supply

Personnel: Herbert Woodson, Electrical  
Engineering  
Dale Klein, NETL  
Erfan Ibrahim, NETL

Sponsored by: Center for Fusion Engineering  
Texas Atomic Energy Research  
Foundation

Description:

The Reversed-Field Pinch (RFP) reactor is one of the conceptual designs under study for the production of electrical energy from fusion. Several reactor design evaluations have been undertaken at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. The RFP is a toroidal shaped device that holds a plasma by the simultaneous presence of a toroidal field and a poloidal field. A homopolar generator power supply has been developed by the Center for Electromechanics (CEM) at The University of Texas at Austin. The goal of this study is to examine the RFP and the homopolar power supply developed by CEM as a conceptual design. Parameters to be



investigated include the physical size of the RFP, the power supply required and the fundamental plasma requirements for ignition.

M. Construction of a Large Benjamin Counter

Personnel: Nolan E. Hertel, NETL  
Richard Savage, NETL

Sponsored by: Texas Atomic Energy Research  
Foundation

Description:

A large spherical proton-recoil proportional counter is being constructed for use in measuring neutron energy spectra below 2MeV. By differentiating proton-recoil spectra obtained with the detector filling gas (methane or hydrogen) at various pressures, an unknown neutron energy spectrum can be reconstructed. This detector will be used with an existing NE-213 spectrometry system to make possible neutron spectral measurements from 20 MeV down to approximately to 10 keV. The two detection systems will then be employed in fusion energy related neutronics studies.

N. Transient Analysis of Fissile and Fusile Fuel Trajectories for Hybrid and Converter Reactor Symbioses

Personnel: Nolan E. Hertel, NETL  
J. Wiley Davidson, NETL  
Yukitaka Kunitomo, NETL

Sponsored by: Texas Atomic Energy Research  
Foundation

Description:

Fissile fuel bred in a hybrid fusion reactor blanket may be used to expand the fission converter reactor economy. Similarly, fusile fuel (tritium) produced in the converter reactors may be used to expand the fusion economy. A model has been developed to predict the rate at which such a symbiotic economy could grow. The model allows the determination of time dependent fissile and fusile inventories for stockpiles, as well as for both



hybrid and convertor reactor cores and blankets. This transient analysis is being performed for a variety of fission convertor and anticipated fusion hybrid reactor concepts and fuel cycles. Such an analysis will allow the prediction of initial stockpile requirements in addition to providing a more accurate assessment of short term symbiotic system doubling times.

O. Neutron Transport Studies: Neutron Multiplication by Beryllium

Personnel: Nolan E. Hertel, NETL  
Center for Fusion Engineering

Sponsored by: Pending, National Science  
Foundation

Description:

The use of beryllium as a neutron multiplier is central to the current fusion breeder design. Recent measurements of beryllium neutron multiplication and re-evaluations of beryllium nuclear data indicate that the multiplying performance of beryllium previously has been overestimated, possibly by as much as 25%. If beryllium's performance as a neutron multiplier has indeed been overestimated even by as much as 10%, the direction of the fusion breeder program in the United States might well change. It is tantamount to the current fusion breeder concepts that the issue of beryllium neutron multiplication be resolved. Therefore, an experiment using a spherical shell of beryllium is being proposed.

The beryllium experiment has been designed to measure multiplication resulting from DT, DD, PuBe, and  $^{252}\text{Cf}$  neutron sources being placed in a spherical shell. By doing so the sensitivity of the multiplication to spectral shape can be observed. In addition, the use of these four sources helps to simulate the effect of neutron source degradation in a fusion reactor. The neutron multiplication will be obtained directly from summing weighted Bonner ball measurements of the neutron leakage. The neutron multiplication obtained in this manner will provide a number which tests the capability of the current beryllium nuclear data to calculate total neutron multiplication.

P. Thermal Analysis of Nuclear Shipping Containers

Personnel: Randy Manteufel, NETL  
Dale E. Klein, NETL

Sponsored by: Sandia National Laboratories

Description:

The thermal analysis of shipping containers to be used in the transport of spent nuclear fuel is an important safety issue. Sandia National Laboratories has been involved in safety issues for the transport of nuclear material for many years. The University of Texas at Austin (NETL) has been involved in the specific issues of thermal analysis of these containers for several years. The current project is intended to benchmark a thermal analysis code (Q/TRAN) and pre and post processing software PATRAN-G using four standard model problems. Comparisons will be made with other applicable codes currently available at UT (including HEATING 5). Sensitivity studies will be performed to further evaluate Q/TRAN's suitability for thermal analysis. Enhancements, if any, that will increase the current capabilities of the software will be suggested and developed if feasible.

Q. Determination of Trace Element Impurities in Aspirin Tablets

Personnel: Felib Y. Iskander, NETL  
Dale E. Klein, NETL  
Thomas L. Bauer, NETL

Sponsored by: Nuclear Engineering Teaching  
Laboratory

Description:

Twenty-five trace and minor elements in five different aspirin brands were determined. The results were compared to literature values.

R. Determination of 25 Elements in Texas Hard Red Winter Wheat and Its Milling Fractions.

Personnel: Felib Y. Iskander, NETL

Sponsored by: Nuclear Engineering Teaching  
Laboratory  
Texas A&M University

Description:

Five varieties of hard red winter wheat (Scout 66, Coker 767, Vona, TAM101 and TAM105) grown in Texas, 1982 were milled and separated into six fractions using U.S. standard sieves. Twenty-five elements were determined in each fraction as well as in the whole wheat. Protein, in vitro protein digestibility and ash content of each fraction were also determined. Correlation between the results was studied.

S. Vanadium Sorption by Crude Oil

Personnel: Felib Y. Iskander, NETL  
F.S. Jacobs, ODU

Sponsored by: Nuclear Engineering Teaching  
Laboratory  
University of Old Dominion  
(Virginia)

Description:

Crude oil and asphaltene samples were equilibrated with vanadium salt solutions then separated into petroleum and aqueous phases. Each phase was analyzed for vanadium by INAA. Sorption of  $VO_2^+$  occurs to a greater extent than the sorption of  $VO^+$ . The effect of pH, presence of other ions and oil-to-aqueous volume ratio was studied. Three crude oil samples were used (Jobo, Tia Juana and Bachaquero) and one asphaltene (Jobo).

T. Determination of Lanthanum in Soil Samples

Personnel: Felib Y. Iskander, NETL  
Thomas L. Bauer, NETL  
J. Rhodes, (CSI)

Sponsored by: Nuclear Engineering Teaching  
Laboratory  
Columbia Scientific Industries

Description:

The use of rare earth elements (e.g., La) as an indicator in oil exploration was the prime target in this study. Several samples were activated and the activity of  $^{141}\text{La}$  was measured.

U. Determination of Toxic and Other Elements in Rain Sediment Collected in Nigeria

Personnel: Felib Y. Iskander, NETL  
Bode Asubiojo, U of Ife

Sponsored by: Nuclear Engineering Teaching  
Laboratory  
University of IFE (Nigeria)

Description:

Rainfall, after drought season, washes out the suspended dust and air particulates. Twenty-seven (27) elements were determined in six samples collected at different locations.

V. Analysis of Soil Samples from South America

Personnel: Thomas L. Bauer, NETL  
Felib Y. Iskander, NETL

Sponsored by: Center for Maximum Potential  
Building Systems

Description:

Clay samples in different locations were analyzed for Al, Mg, K, Na and Ca to determine suitable components of certain minerals. Study supported applications of two types of mineral deposits for building construction in areas of low economic income.

W. Measurement of Gold

Personnel: Felib Y. Iskander, NETL

Sponsored by: Nuclear Engineering Teaching  
Laboratory  
H.S. Jackson Sand & Gravel, Inc.  
Irving, Texas 75061

Description:

Different methods were used to extract gold and other precious metals. Several samples that represents the extraction steps were analyzed to identify the efficiency of these methods. The concentration of gold ranged from 15 ng g<sup>-1</sup> to 800 µg g<sup>-1</sup>.



#### VIII. Publications From the Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory

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3. J.M. Norwood, "The Point Source Transport Solution for the Position and Velocity Dependent Neutron Distribution in a Spherical Body of Non-Multiplying Material", Masters Thesis, Physics Department, The University of Texas, 75 pp. June, 1962.
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5. P. Berananda, "Neutron Flux Distribution of a Subcritical Reactor Core with a Graphite Reflector", Masters Thesis, Physics Department, The University of Texas, 40 pp., January 1962.
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7. D.G. Martin, "Film Detector for a Neutron Spectrometer", Masters Thesis, Physics Department, The University of Texas, June 1963.
8. M.L. West II, "Flux Decay Rate in a Reflected Subcritical Reactor", Masters Thesis, Physics Department, The University of Texas, 55 pp., August 1963.
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11. R.S. Kolflat, "An Experimental Approach to the Study of Nucleonic Fundamentals", Masters Thesis, Mechanical Engineering Department, The University of Texas, 190 pp., May, 1965.
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17. F.H. Antunez-Castillo, "Gamma Radiation Dosimetry Techniques and Application to Mapping of The University of Texas Cobalt-60 Irradiation Facility", Masters Thesis, Physics Department, The University of Texas, 60 pp., September 1968.
18. R. Valiente, "Neutron Radiography with the University of Texas TRIGA Nuclear Reactor", Masters Thesis, Physics (Nuclear Engineering), The University of Texas, August 1968.
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20. P.J. Rodriguez and D.H. Nguyen, "The Maximum Eigenvalue in the Pulsed-Neutron Initial-Value Problem", Trans. Amer. Nucl. Soc. 11:2, 578 (November 1968).
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March 29, 1985

Director of Inspection and Enforcement  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are twelve (12) copies of the calendar year 1984 annual report. These are being submitted according to CFR 10 Section 50.59.

Sincerely yours,

*T.L. Bauer*

T.L. Bauer  
Reactor Supervisor  
SOP #3664

*Dale Klein*  
Dale Klein, Director  
Nuclear Engineering  
Teaching Laboratory

TLB:DK:bb  
Enclosure

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