



May 20, 1992

Mr. Marvin Mendonca  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
PDNP  
M.S. 11-B-20  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Mendonca,

The University of Utah's "Technical Specifications for the University of Utah TRIGA Reactor, Docket No. 50-407, Facility License No. R-126" from September 30, 1975 to March 1985 contained specification 4.1.

"All fuel elements shall be inspected visually for damage or deterioration every two years. Any fuel element which appears damaged shall be measured for length and bend. A fuel element shall be considered damaged and must be removed from the core if:"

In the revised Technical Specifications adapted in March 1985, the underlined sentence was omitted from the specification (see enclosed copies of these specifications). We have performed the fuel inspection every two years and any fuel element which appears damaged upon visual inspection is measured for length and bend. We do not perform a measurement on a fuel element which does not appear damaged because the act of inserting and removing the element from the measurement tool can scratch the cladding surface. We believe visual inspection is satisfactory for assessing potential damage and this practice is consistent with the fuel inspection program of other licensed TRIGA facilities.

We will continue this visual inspection procedure unless informed otherwise by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Sandquist  
Director, UUNEL  
Acting Reactor Supervisor

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ADD: MARV Mendonca

14-Encl. A020