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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

October 10, 1996

J. Edwards, Vice President
General Council and Secretary
General Atomics
P.O. Box 85608
San Diego, California 92186-9784

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 70-734/96-03 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Edwards:

On September 16-20, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at your Torrey Pines Mesa and Sorrento Valley facilities. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection.

During this inspection, your conduct of activities at the Torrey Pines Mesa and Sorrento Valley facilities was generally characterized as having effective implementation of programs in the areas of operations, emergency preparedness, and maintenance of safety equipment. We are concerned, however, about one violation identified that involved the failure to provide annual refresher training on the use of self contained breathing apparatuses that may be used in the event of an emergency.

The violation is cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding this violation are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure(s), and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

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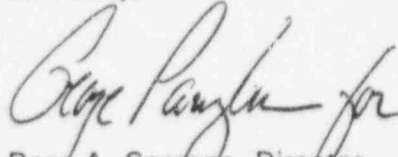
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October 10, 1996

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ross A. Scarano".

Ross A. Scarano, Director
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No.: 70-734
License No.: SNM-696

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report
70-734/96-03

cc w/enclosures:

Dr. K. E. Asmussen, Director
Licensing, Safety and Nuclear Compliance
P.O. Box 85608
San Diego, California 92186-9784

State of California

October 10, 1996

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