

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I

Report No. 50-77/85-01

Docket No. 50-77

License No. R-31

Licensee: Catholic University
620 Michigan Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20064

Facility Name: AGN-201

Inspection At: Washington, D.C.

Inspection Conducted: June 4, 1985

Inspector:

T. C. Elsasser
T. C. Elsasser, Chief, Reactor Projects Section 3C

7/11/85
Date

Approved:

E. C. McCabe
E. C. McCabe, Chief, Reactor Projects Section 3B

7/11/85
Date

Inspection Summary: Inspection on June 4, 1985 (Report No. 50-77/85-01)

Areas Inspected: Routine, unannounced inspection of administrative controls. The reactor has been in a continued shutdown mode since May 31, 1983.

Results: One violation was identified because of the facility's failure to have an acting Reactor Administrator. The absence of the Reactor Administrator made the official records of the facility unavailable for inspection.

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DETAILS

On June 4, 1985, the inspector visited Catholic University for the purpose of conducting a routine safety inspection. Upon arrival, the secretarial staff informed the inspector that Dr. Edward Jordan, the Reactor Administrator, was not at the facility.

The inspector was able to reach Dr. Jordan on the telephone at his place of summer employment and asked him if he could make himself available so that an inspection of the Catholic University reactor could be conducted. The inspector offered to return the following day, June 5, if that was more convenient. Dr. Jordan told the inspector that he was on a nine month appointment at the University, and was not in their employ during the summer months. He stated that his summer employment made him unavailable for an inspection until the middle of August when he would return to the University.

The inspector asked Dr. Jordan if anyone else was available who could assist in the inspection of the reactor on a more timely basis. Dr. Jordan indicated that Mr. Warren Keene was available, but that Mr. Keene would not have access to all of the records which pertained to the reactor. The inspector asked specifically about the availability of annual reports, safety committee meeting reports, and audit findings. Dr. Jordan indicated that Mr. Keene possessed only those documents in which he was directly involved and that the complete master file of all reports was maintained locked in Dr. Jordan's office and that these reports were not available to Mr. Keene.

The inspector discussed with Dr. Jordan Technical Specification 16.6.1.5 which requires that the Reactor Administrator be responsible for the maintenance of all records pertinent to the reactor. The TS also require that the Reactor Administrator, prior to periods of scheduled absence, designate someone to act in his place. Since no one was designated who had complete access to reactor records, the inspector informed Dr. Jordan that this was considered to be a violation of Technical Specifications (50-77/85-01-01).

As a followup to this inspection, the inspector contacted Dr. A. Favret by telephone on June 21, 1985. Dr. Favret is the Dean of Engineering and Architecture and, according to the Technical Specifications, has ultimate responsibility for the reactor facility and is responsible for appointing the reactor administrator. The inspector informed Dr. Favret of the outcome of the inspection and asked if anyone had been designated to act in Dr. Jordan's behalf during his absence. Dr. Favret said that, to his knowledge, no alternate had been designated. The inspector informed Dr. Favret that this was a violation, and that this inspection report would be forwarded directly to him since Dr. Jordan would not be available until the middle of August. The inspector told Dr. Favret that the followup inspection could be delayed until Dr. Jordan's return; however, if arrangement could be made by the University to conduct the inspection at an earlier date, Dr. Favret could inform the inspector via the telephone.

The inspector also discussed with Dr. Favret the current status of the reactor which has been shut down and nonoperational since May 31, 1983. There have been several discussions between Dr. Jordan and NRR relative to converting Catholic University's license to "possession only" since the University has no intention to restore the reactor to an operational status in the near term. The inspector suggested that Dr. Favret actively coordinate these discussions between Dr. Jordan and NRR in order to modify the University's license to more accurately reflect the current status of the reactor and the University's future plans. The inspector indicated that NRR was willing to work closely with Dr. Jordan to achieve that goal, and that a meeting between Dr. Jordan and NRR would expedite the process. Dr. Favret agreed to discuss this matter with Dr. Jordan.

In closing, the inspector expressed his concerns to Dr. Favret relative to the current administration of the reactor license. The inspector emphasized that along with possession of a reactor license go certain regulatory obligations. Among these are effective management of the license administrative requirements and the availability of the reactor and its records for inspection by the NRC. Attention is necessary on the part of Catholic University's administration to insure that an active interest is demonstrated to insure that the University remains in compliance with the requirements of the Technical Specifications. If a change to those Technical Specifications is necessary to more accurately reflect the current status of the reactor, then Catholic University must take an active and continuing interest to insure those changes are implemented.