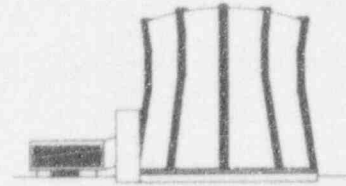


TEXAS ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS 77843-3575



17 October, 1996

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

NUCLEAR SCIENCE CENTER
409/845-7551
96-0327

SUBJECT: Reportable Occurrence, Violation of Technical
Specification Limiting Condition for Operation

REF: Reactor Facility License R-83, Docket 50-128

Dear Sir:

This letter is to inform you of a reportable occurrence at the Texas A&M University Nuclear Science Center on 15 October, 1996. The cause was a violation of the Technical Specification 3.4 "Ventilation System":

Specification

The reactor shall not be operated unless the facility ventilation system is operable, except for periods of time necessary to permit repair of the system. In the event of a substantial release of airborne radioactivity, the ventilation system will be secured automatically by signals from an exhaust air radiation monitor.

The automatic ventilation system shutdown had been bypassed during a normal air monitor check prior to a reactor startup. The bypass key was found in the bypass mode after six hours of reactor operation.

A root cause analysis is in progress and a formal written report will sent to you within fourteen days.

Respectfully,

W.D. Reece
W.D. Reece, Ph.D.
Director

AD2010

xc: 12110/Central File 17134/Reportable Occurrence File
Dr. James Holste, Reactor Safety Board Chairman
Samuel J. Collins, Director, Region IV,
Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards

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