



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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December 12, 1996

Dr. David W. Freeman, Acting Reactor Director
Nuclear Reactor Facility
University of Missouri, Rolla
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Dear Dr. Freeman:

A preliminary AEOD Case Study, "Non-Power Reactor Survey," is enclosed for your review and comment. The study was initiated by AEOD because of occurrences in 1993 involving loss of multiple scram functions and reactivity control problems at non-power reactor facilities. The survey conducted dealt mainly with higher powered MTR-fueled and TRIGA-fueled non-power reactors, and included visits to several representative facilities, reviews of operating experience, and reviews of selected facility safety analyses. The study identified some important lessons learned on non-power reactor safety which need to be included in the licensing and regulatory process. Even though this class of reactors is significantly more safe than the power reactor community class, there may not be sufficient oversight on event management (including startup checks for operability), reporting, and followup, either by the licensee management or by the NRC.

In accordance with our peer review process, prior to the finalization and distribution of this case study, we are providing the Test, Research, and Training Reactors (TRTR) community a copy of the preliminary report for review and comment. We request that you focus your review primarily on the accuracy and completeness of the technical details and the resulting findings and conclusions. Changes to the findings and conclusions will be considered if there are errors in fact or supporting data. We do not plan to recommend any regulatory actions until we have reconciled comments and issued the final report.

We are sending this draft report to all the members of the TRTR community in order to ensure that interested parties have the opportunity to comment. We have also suggested to Dr. Brian Dodd, Chairman of TRTR, that it would be useful for TRTR to serve a coordinating role in providing a consolidated consensus response. Since we wish to finalize and issue the report shortly, we are asking that any comments be submitted within 45 days of the receipt of this letter. We ask that your comments be submitted by letter or included in a consolidated consensus response from the TRTR community.

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If you or your staff have any questions regarding this study, please feel free to contact me at (301) 415-7499.

Sincerely,

/s/

Charles E. Rossi, Director
Safety Programs Division
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of Operational Data

Enclosure: As stated

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