



REACTOR FACILITY

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REGION V 186

Mr. J. Martin, Regional Administrator
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission - Region V
1450 Maria Lane Suite 210
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-5368

Docket # 50-288

6 January 1986

Dear Mr. Martin:

On 19 December it was discovered that the last conductivity reading of the reactor pool coolant and the checking of the setpoints of the Continuous Air Monitor and Radiation Area Monitor were on 22 November, a violation of Section D.2 of the Technical Specifications for the Reed College TRIGA Mark I Reactor (weekly surveillances of these items are required). This specification applied even though the reactor was in suspended operation. The cause of this incident was inattention of the Reactor Supervisor after specifically being reminded of surveillance requirements during suspended operations.

The conductivity readings on 22 November and 19 December were both 1.2 micromohs per centimeter. Experience over many years has shown that the readings seldom vary more than 0.1 micromoh per centimeter over much longer periods. It is certain that the monthly average is less than 2.0 micromohs per centimeter as required by the Technical Specifications. The setpoints of the Continuous Air Monitor and Radiation Area Monitor were within the limits established for surveillances on both dates. The recording of the reading of the Continuous Air Monitor showed no unexpected variations during the period. There were no adverse affects from this incident on the reactor or any of its components, and there was no threat to the safety of the reactor or the health and safety of the general public.

In order to prevent a recurrence of such an incident the Reactor Supervisor has been relieved of duties associated with that position. The relevant portions of the letter to that operator are

"After my recent letter dated 11 November and our subsequent discussions, I thought routine surveillance requirements were being met. The last week in November I even mentioned this again to you when I saw you on the way to Eliot, and you said that the weekly checklist for that week would be done. On 19 December when I went to the Facility to perform the Weekly Checklist for the vacation period, I could not find any weekly surveillances since the last one I had performed on 22 November. The Health Physics Surveillances had been performed by appropriate personnel, but not the Weekly Checklist surveillances. I therefore find it necessary to immediately relieve you of your duties as Reactor Supervisor. I hope you realize the gravity of this incident. Although the reactor is

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in suspended operation, the requirements for weekly conductivity readings of the pool coolant and checking of the RAM and CAM setpoints are still Technical Specifications requirements. I am required to file reports of this incident with the NRC, Reed Management, and the Reactor Operations Committee.

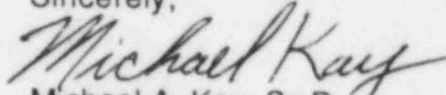
I hope you will review the applicable documents. Part of your requalification program for 1986 shall be to:

- 1) Prepare a list of all required surveillances from the proposed documentation (Tech Specs, Admin Procs, Emergency Plan, Security Plan, and Facility License) and compare it to present documentation. The results should be a table by time interval of the surveillances required at RRF.
- 2) Review (and propose any changes to update) the sections in the Administrative Procedures on the duties of the Reactor Supervisor, RO's, and SRO's.

This accelerated retraining in parts of the Administrative Procedures and Surveillances is to be completed by the time of the annual requalification program in April."

A new Reactor Supervisor has been appointed and instructed in writing to review the applicable documentation. The calendar for the wall of the control room will have the due dates of all surveillances on it. The incident will be reviewed by the Reactor Operations Committee at its next meeting. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (503) 771-1112 x205.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Kay, Sc.D.
Director

cc M. Cronyn, Provost Reed College
Reactor Operations Committee