



GA Technologies

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In Reply
Refer To: 67/8067

13 February 1986

Mr. Harold R. Denton
Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Docket No. 50-163; Reactor Facility License R-67 - Reportable Occurrence.

Dear Mr. Denton:

On Monday, January 27, 1986, the NRC compliance office of Region V was notified by telephone of an occurrence concerning the TRIGA Mark F facility (R-67) which took place on Saturday, January 25, 1986. The oral reporting was delayed by one day because on Sunday the Region V telephone was answered by a machine which gave a recorded message advising how to contact the NRC in case of an emergency. The very benign nature of the occurrence did not warrant any emergency notification measures, therefore notification was made the following day. The circumstances of the occurrence are described below.

When thermionic devices are in the core, the Mark F reactor Technical Specification 10.2.6(f)(2)(i) requires a system capable of providing an automatic scram if the continuous air monitor (CAM) records 50,000 counts per minute or more.

During routine steady-state operation at 1275 Kw with thermionic devices in the core, the reactor operator noted at 1620 hours on January 25 that the air pump which circulates air through the particulate filter in the CAM was not functioning. The operator found that the pump power cord plug was only partially inserted. The plug was immediately inserted properly and the pump was returned to operation. The pump circuit was hard-wired into a power panel the following Monday, January 27, 1986, to assure that a similar outage would not occur again.

A check of the CAM strip chart recorder indicates that the air pump was out of operation for approximately 45 minutes. The electric and electronic circuits in the CAM are powered via a twistlock AC plug and sockets to another circuit. Although the CAM electronic counter and recorder were never out of service, the air circulating pump was and the CAM was essentially ineffective during the 45 minute interval. A check of the several other on-line monitoring systems which would indicate possible leakage of radioactive material from the thermionic cells (secondary containment pressure gauge, cell top radiation monitor, room exhaust filter monitor, and area radiation monitors) showed no sign of unusual radioactivity.

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Harold R. Denton

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We trust you will find the above description of the occurrence and corrective action satisfactory. If you have questions concerning the above reported occurrence, you may contact me at (619) 455-2823 or Dr. W. L. Whittemore at (619) 455-3277.

Very truly yours,

Keith E. Asmussen

Keith E. Asmussen
Manager, Licensing and
Nuclear Material Management

KEA:hc

cc: Mr. John B. Martin, NRC, Region V.