

PENNSTATE



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Mr. Marvin Mendonca
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
OWFN, Room 11 G 12
MS 11 B 20
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Marvin:

I wanted to inform you of changes at Penn State that are in the formative stage that will affect the reporting chain for the reactor. The Dean has announced that the Nuclear Engineering and the Mechanical Engineering Departments will merge into a Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Department. The programs in Nuclear Engineering, both undergraduate and graduate, will be retained. There is a complete commitment to the continued operation of the Breazeale Nuclear Reactor. A transition committee has been established to guide the merger, and to identify and make recommendations on important issues. One of those critical issues is the reporting chain for the nuclear reactor. The transition committee has just begun its work, and the administrative structure of the new department has yet to be agreed upon. However, I can say this, based on conversations with the Dean. The Dean understands the need for strong oversight, and at the same time wishes to have the reactor remain within Engineering. The reporting chain is likely to have the first oversight level in the new department, with the program head of Nuclear Engineering having the oversight responsibility.

I anticipate that it will be at least six months before any administrative change takes place. This letter is to give you advanced notice that such changes are to be expected in the fairly near future. Naturally, we will go through the formal technical specification change when the merger is approved by the Board of Trustees. This is unlikely to occur before fall.

Sincerely,

Edward H. Klevans
Professor and Head
Nuclear Engineering Department

cc: W.F. Witzig

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