



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

September 6, 1984

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The Honorable Richard L. Ottinger, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy Conservation and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is an announcement that the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has cited the University of Connecticut for six alleged violations of NRC requirements on the use and storage of radioactive materials. The staff proposes to fine the University of Connecticut \$2,500.

It is planned to mail this information to the news media today, September 6, 1984.

Sincerely,

Carlton Kammerer, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: Rep. Carlos Moorhead

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:
Sen. Simpson/cc: Sen. Hart
Rep. Udall/cc: Rep. Lujan
Rep. Markey/cc: Rep. Marlenee
Sen. Weicker
Sen. Dodd
Rep. Gejdenson

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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631 Park Avenue, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406
Tel. 215 337-6330

No. I-84-97
Contact: Karl Abraham
Brian Norris

September 6, 1984

NRC STAFF CITES UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT FOR SIX ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF NRC REQUIREMENTS: PROPOSES \$2,500 FINE

The staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has cited the University of Connecticut at Storrs, Connecticut for six alleged violations of NRC requirements on the use and storage of radioactive materials. The NRC staff proposes to fine the University of Connecticut \$2,500.

The alleged violations were found during an NRC inspection of the university on June 7 and 8, 1984. The University of Connecticut is licensed by the NRC to use certain radioactive materials in research experiments.

The alleged violations include:

- failure to control access to laboratories where radioactive materials were being used;

- failure to classify laboratories according to the level of radioactive material used and failure to conduct radiological surveys of the laboratories;

- failure to conduct radiological surveys of packages of radioactive materials received at the university;

- failure to do monthly radiological surveys of rooms where radioactive materials were stored;

- permitting smoking in rooms where radioactive materials were being used and storing food in rooms where radioactive materials also were being stored;

- failure to calibrate and maintain radiological surveying equipment.

In a letter informing the University of this proposed enforcement action, Dr. Thomas E. Murley, Regional Administrator, NRC Region I, said, "these violations demonstrate the need for improvement in the administration and control of the radiation safety program to assure adherence to NRC requirements and safe performance of licensed activities."

Dr. Murley stated that during an earlier NRC inspection and during audits by the university's own radiation safety office, it was found that the university was failing to control access to radioactive materials, "yet corrective actions were not sufficient to preclude recurrence of violations of this type."

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The university has 30 days to either pay the fine or to request in writing that part or all of it be withdrawn. The university also has 30 days to write to the NRC staff and describe what was done or will be done to assure that these alleged violations do not recur.

The State of Connecticut has been informed of this proposed enforcement action.

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