

PENNSTATE



College of Engineering  
Radiation Science and Engineering Center

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Breazeale Nuclear Reactor Building  
The Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA 16802-2301

May 2, 1997

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555

Re: Reportable Occurrence: Tech Spec Violation  
License R-2, Docket No. 50-005

Dear Sir or Madame:

As per the requirements of sections 6.5.2 and 6.6.2 of the Technical Specifications for the Pennsylvania State University Breazeale Reactor, this letter is to inform the NRC of a reportable occurrence on May 1, 1997.

On May 1, 1997 during the conduct of SOP-2, Reactor Checkout, step M-6 which collects PSBR water data was not completed. This was discovered on May 2, 1997 during the conduct of SOP-2. Tech Spec 4.3.3, Pool Water Conductivity, requires pool water conductivity to be measured and recorded daily when the reactor is to be operated. During that day, the reactor was operated. Information exists which demonstrates the coolant conductivity limits of Tech Spec 3.3.5 were met at all times.

It is unknown whether the missed surveillance was due to negligence or mistake. There is no evidence it was intentional. The licensed operators responsible were not available on May 2, 1997 for interviews. This will be done on their return to work. AP-4, Identification, Evaluation and Documentation of Safety System Failures, Abnormal Events, and Operational Events was completed to the extent feasible at this time; it was ascertained conductivity was and had been within spec; and reactor startup was authorized by the SRO with review and approval of the Manager of Operation and Training, and the Acting Director.

A further report with investigation results, root cause, and corrective actions will be provided to the NRC by May 16, 1997.

Sincerely,

Dr. C. Fredrick Sears  
Director  
Radiation Science and Engineering Center

CFS/pjs4033.97

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