

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

REGION III

Report No. 070-1308/78-05

Docket No. 070-1308

License No. SNM-1265

Licensee: General Electric Company  
175 Curtner Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95125

Facility name: Morris Operation

Inspection at: Morris Operation

Inspection conducted: August 21-25, 1978

Inspector: *W. L. Fisher*  
for C. C. Peck

9/5/78

*W. L. Fisher*  
Approved by: W. L. Fisher, Chief, Fuel Facility  
Projects and Radiation Support  
Section

9/5/78

Inspection Summary

Inspection on August 21-25, 1978 (Report No. 070-1308/78-05)

Areas Inspected: Routine, unannounced safety inspection, including: organization, facility changes and modifications, internal reviews and audits, safety committees, training, quality assurance, operations review, calibrations, and nuclear criticality safety. The inspection involved 37 inspector-hours onsite by one NRC inspector.

Results: No items of noncompliance or deviations were found in the nine areas inspected.

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## DETAILS

### 1. Persons Contacted

E. E. Voiland, Plant Manager  
\*H. R. Strickler, Plant Operations Manager  
\*T. E. Ingels, Quality Assurance and Safeguards Manager  
\*J. P. Kesman, Plant Engineering and Maintenance Manager  
\*K. J. Eger, Senior Engineer, Safety and Licensing  
J. E. McGrath, Plant Safety Supervisor  
R. C. Paul, Operations Shift Supervisor

The inspector also contacted several operations technicians and safety technicians.

\*Denotes those present at exit interview.

### 2. Licensee Action on Previous Inspection Findings

(To remain open) One noncompliance and seven commitments (70-1308/78-04): These items, all of a health physics nature, were not inspected in detail. The licensee stated that actions had been taken to resolve these matters. They will be examined during a future inspection.

### 3. Organization

Mr. L. L. Denio returned to Morris Operation on August 1, 1978 as Supervisor of Analytical Services. There have been no other changes in the facility organization.

Mr. H. W. Huntley has replaced Mr. D. H. Ferguson as Manager of Quality Assurance in the Nuclear Energy Programs Operations organization at San Jose.

### 4. Operations Review

The inspection began at 7:30 p.m. on August 21, 1978. The inspector toured the fuel storage area, control room, and active auxiliary buildings of the plant. Operations and safety personnel were occupied in routine surveillance activities. No items of noncompliance were identified.

No spent fuel has been received at the plant since March 1978. At the time of the inspection there were 1196 fuel bundles in storage containing 310 metric tons of uranium. Fission product content of the fuel is estimated to be about 200 kilowatts from about 80 million curies of fission products. Both these quantities are well within the license limits of 4400 kilowatts and 2500 million curies.

Basin water quality data were observed to be within license limits for chloride, sodium nitrate, and pH.

5. Facility Changes and Modifications

The status of facility changes was reviewed. Since the previous inspection in May 1978 (Report 70-1308/78-04) the following changes of safety interest have been approved or completed:

- a. A recirculation system for flushing the basin coolers was being installed at the time of the inspection. The coolers have been a continuing radiation problem because of the buildup in the cooler tubes of a red crud containing cobalt and cesium. This material has resisted removal by filtration and repeated flushing. Recent studies have demonstrated that chemical flushing may be effective. The recirculation system will permit the cleaning solution to be pumped from a new tank in the basin pump room through the coolers and back to the tank. Contaminated solution will be disposed of from the tank to the low activity waste (LAW) vault.
- b. Installation in the control room of a radiation monitor for the basin coolers was completed.
- c. A low switch for the basin crane hoist was installed.
- d. Installation of a hoist for the seven-curie cobalt source in the laboratory hot cell was approved by the Plant Safety Committee.
- e. Installation of an area radiation monitor in the manipulator cleaning room was approved.

The safety significance of all the foregoing changes was considered by the Plant Safety Committee. Completed installations were inspected by Quality Assurance and QA test results were documented.

No noncompliance items or deviations were identified.

6. Internal Reviews and Audits

Audits of various systems and activities are conducted by company representatives from San Jose and by local employees who have no responsibility for the activity being audited. Audits are described in Fuel Recovery Instructions (FRI's) and Morris Operating Instructions (MOI's). Formal check sheets are used during the audits.

An annual audit, "Design, Maintenance, Calibration, and Test Control," conducted in May 1978 was reviewed by the inspector. Although no corrective actions of those activities resulted, changes and reviews of several MOI's were recommended.

No noncompliance was identified.

7. Safety Committee

The Plant Safety Committee has held monthly meetings. A principle function of the committee is to consider and approve proposed facility changes and to determine if the changes require a formal safety review. The inspector attended the August meeting as an observer.

No noncompliance items were found.

8. Training

Operations and safety technicians are required to complete a retraining program biennially. At the time of the inspection, preparation of the program for 1978 had been completed. Training sessions were scheduled to take place over the next two months.

The program consists of about 29 sessions concerning operating systems and components, utility and instrument systems, and radiation safety. The training and quizzes that accompany each topic are required for operating and safety technicians.

No items of noncompliance were identified.

9. Required Calibrations

The Consolidated Safety Analysis Report requires the periodic calibration of the following:

	<u>Frequency</u>
Basin Leak Detection System	Monthly
Area Radiation Monitors	Quarterly
Criticality Monitors	Quarterly

Records disclosed that the systems have been calibrated at the required frequencies.

No items of noncompliance were identified.

10. Other Calibrations

Several instruments are periodically sent offsite for vendor calibration. These instruments are used as secondary standards in calibrations, tests, and measurements of safety related instrument systems.

Records of calibrations conducted in 1978 were examined. Calibration certificates and evidence of inspection by Quality Assurance were available in each instance.

No noncompliance items were identified.

11. Quality Assurance

The inspector examined all incoming material reports (IMR) for materials received in 1978 for evidence of conformance with the licensee's quality assurance criteria. Records indicated that materials were obtained and inspected upon receipt in accordance with the QA requirements.

Inspection of Morris Operation Inspection Reports (MOIR) disclosed that equipment important to safety is being inspected as required. Under this system OSHA-type inspections are performed on cranes, fuel handling tools and equipment, cask parts, ladders, etc. and the results documented.

No noncompliance items were found.

12. Closeout Meeting

The inspector met with the licensee representatives identified in Paragraph 1 at the conclusion of the inspection on August 25, 1978. The inspector described the scope of the inspection and stated that no items of noncompliance had been identified.

Licensee representatives agreed:

- a. To require the use of ear protection in the emergency equipment building whenever the diesel generator is in operation.
- b. To improve the identification of cylinder gas manifolds and pipelines located outside the process building. The manifolds were observed to be unidentified or incorrectly identified.