



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

MAR 08 1988

Docket No. 50-62
License No. R-66
EA 87-155

University of Virginia
ATTN: Dr. Edgar A. Starke, Jr., Dean
School of Engineering and
Applied Science
Thornton Hall
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: ORDER IMPOSING A CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-62/87-03)

This refers to your letter dated November 18, 1987, in response to the Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty sent to you by our letter dated October 26, 1987. Our letter and Notice describe several violations identified as a result of an NRC inspection. To emphasize the need for adequate control of high radiation areas and management control of facility design and modifications made for the purpose of performing experiments, a civil penalty of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) was proposed.

In your response dated November 18, 1987, you denied the occurrence of Violations I.B.2 and I.B.4, and you admitted the occurrence of the remaining violations. You also requested remission or mitigation of the proposed civil penalty.

In your November 18 response you admit Violation I.A but state that continuous monitoring of the blockhouse modification was not required because beamport shield integrity could be verified by visual inspection of the water level position in the see-through water lines of the beamport fill/drain system. Interviews with experimenters working on the blockhouse modification showed that many of the experimenters did not know how to interpret various fluid levels in the water lines of the beamport fill/drain system. In addition, the sight tube for the beamport fill/drain system was located outside the blockhouse and would not have provided any alarm to changing shield conditions to persons working inside the blockhouse. Consequently, continuous monitoring of the blockhouse modification was required.

At the time of the enforcement conference, the NRC was not aware of the broad scope of corrective actions that were in the development stages, such as the guidelines issued for experiments conducted at your reactor facility. After consideration of your response, including the evaluation of new information submitted after the NRC inspection on July 6-8, and 15-17, 1987, we have concluded for the reasons given in the Appendix attached to the enclosed Order Imposing Civil Monetary Penalty that Violation I.B.4 occurred as stated in the

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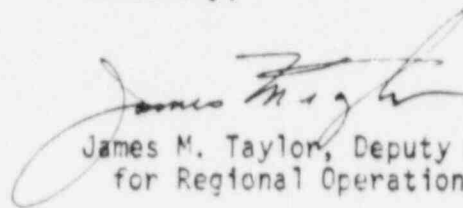
University of Virginia

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Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty dated October 26, 1987, that Violation I.B.2 should be withdrawn and that mitigation of the proposed civil penalty of \$2,500 by 50 percent is warranted due to your extensive corrective actions and the withdrawal of Violation I.B.2. Accordingly, we hereby serve the Enclosed Order on the University of Virginia imposing a civil monetary penalty in the amount of One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$1,250). We will review the effectiveness of your corrective actions during a subsequent inspection.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice", Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosure will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

Sincerely,



James M. Taylor, Deputy Executive Director
for Regional Operations

Enclosure:

Order Imposing Civil Monetary
Penalty with Appendix