



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

11/24/80

OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM FOR: William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Peter A. Bradford *P.B.*

SUBJECT: UCLA RESEARCH REACTOR

The January 3, 1980 response from UCLA to the 2.206 petition of the "Committee to Bridge the Gap," indicates that the concentrations of Argon-41 in the unrestricted areas immediately adjacent to the ventilation stack will exceed MPC whenever the reactor is operating. In light of the fact that the reactor actually operates only a small fraction of the year, please analyze the reasonableness of allowing the licensee to average Argon concentrations in unrestricted areas over a 12-month period for the purposes of 20.106.

A response is requested by December 10.

cc: Chairman Ahearne
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Hendrie
L. Bickwit, OGC
E. Hanrahan, OPE
S. Chilk, SECY

Rec'd OGC EPC
11/24/80
3:53

8101120135



OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
THE CENTER FOR THE HEALTH SCIENCES
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

January 3, 1980

Mr. John F. Ahearne, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Ahearne:

The enclosed document is UCLA'S official response to the charges concerning the safety of the UCLA Nuclear Reactor that have been made by the "Committee to Bridge the Gap". This document has been prepared by the operational staff of the reactor and myself. (I am a Certified Health Physicist with more than 20 years experience in the field of Radiation Safety, including 3 years experience working with a one megawatt research reactor at the University of Michigan).

We believe that the enclosed document adequately demonstrates that the argon 41 emission from the UCLA Reactor is within the legal limits and does not represent a hazard to anyone, under any realizable conditions. Further, our calculations show that the argon 41 holdup system that we plan to install concurrent with an increase in reactor operating hours will reduce the argon emission to less than the present levels. This result is directly compatible with the spirit of the ALARA concept for operation of a nuclear facility.

Another purpose of my writing this transmittal letter is to request that you change your records to indicate that all future correspondence relating to the UCLA reactor (Facility License R-71) be directed to me:

Walter F. Wegst, PhD
Director, Research & Occupational Safety
Department of Community Safety
University of California
405 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, Ca. 90024

If you have any further questions relative to argon-41 emission, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

Walter F. Wegst
Walter F. Wegst, PhD
Director, Research & Occupational
Safety

WFW:lc

DUPE: 8001300419



7400 Boelter Hall
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024
20 December 1979

Mr. John F. Ahearne, Chairman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

RE: Docket 50-142
License No. R-71

Dear Mr. Ahearne:

The enclosures constitute our response to charges made in regard to the safety of the research reactor on the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles. The charges, contained within a report titled "The UCLA Reactor - Is It Safe?" were forwarded to Joseph M. Hendrie by a group called the "Committee to Bridge the Gap" with a transmittal letter dated October 3, 1979.

The response herewith has been reviewed and approved by our Radiation Use Committee as shown on the attached review page.

Sincerely,

R. R. O'Neill, Dean
School of Engineering and
Applied Science

RRO/NCO/jb

Review by Environmental Health & Safety, UCLA

W. Hegst, Director
Environmental Health & Safety

Approved by Responsible Officer

J. W. Hobson, Vice Chancellor

DISTRIBUTION: Dr. Harold R. Denton

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Mr. Robert W. Reid
(2 copies)

Operating Reactors Branch #4/NRR
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Mr. Robert H. Engelken
Director

Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region V
e 202

94596

DUPLICATE DOCUMENT

Entire document previously
entered into system under:

ANC 8011210018

No. of pages: 17

DU

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

November 5, 1975

Mr. Karl R. Goller
Assistant Director of Operating Reactors
Directorate of Licensing
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 90545

Docket No. 50-142

Dear Mr. Goller:

This is in response to questions raised by Mr. David Jaffee and Mr. Block of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission during a telephone conversation with Messrs C. Ashbaugh and J. Hornor of the UCLA Nuclear Energy Laboratory. We understand that this conversation of September 22, 1975, involved the following four requests and/or questions:

1. That UCLA and the Nuclear Energy Laboratory be committed to a two year environmental thermoluminescent dosimetry (TLD) program, observing a minimum of 6 compass points sampled in various down wind directions from the stack.
2. Describe ventilation and air conditioning intakes in relation to stack releases, and describe possible argon-41 concentrations in these intake systems.
3. With respect to Item 2 of our August 26, 1975 response: What are the radiation exposures to personnel within the meteorological laboratory? Do not ignore immersion.
4. Discuss the ALAP question, 10 CFR 20.106(b) and (c), in terms of possible reduction methods.

The attached response addresses these four items. Please advise us promptly if your questions have been altered in the process of communication.

Sincerely,

W. E. Hartshorn
Acting Director
Laboratory

DUPLICATE DOCUMENT

Entire document previously
entered into system under:ANO 7912050660No. of pages: 7

ENCLOSURE

cc: R.N. Engel
Robert C. G.

Harold V.

on V, Suite 201,
ock, Calif. 91306

Safety