

September 25, 2008

Mr. Terry Alexander, Executive Director
Department of Occupation Safety & Environmental Health
1239 Kipke Drive
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1010

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 050-00002/08-01(DNMS) - FORD NUCLEAR
REACTOR

Dear Mr. Alexander:

On August 28, 2008, the NRC completed inspection activities at the Ford Nuclear Reactor. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether the decommissioning activities were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. Specifically, the inspector evaluated decommissioning performance and radioactive waste management. At the conclusion of the on-site inspection on August 28, 2008, the inspector discussed the inspection findings with the Reactor Manager.

This inspection consisted of an examination of decommissioning activities at the Ford Nuclear Reactor as they relate to safety and compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations. Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the enclosed report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of a selective examination of procedures and representative records, and interviews with personnel.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC did not identify any violations.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). The NRC's document system is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

T. Alexander

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We will gladly discuss any questions you may have regarding this inspection.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Christine Lipa, Chief
Decommissioning Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No. 50-002

License No. R-28

Enclosure:

Inspection Report 050-00002/08-01(DNMS)

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION III

Docket No. 50-002

License No. R-28

Report No. 050-00002/08-01(DNMS)

Licensee: University of Michigan

Facility: Ford Nuclear Reactor

Location: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dates: August 28, 2008

Inspector: William G. Snell, Senior Health Physicist

Approved by: Christine Lipa, Chief
Decommissioning Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Enclosure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

University of Michigan - Ford Nuclear Reactor NRC Inspection Report 050-00002/08-01(DNMS)

This routine decommissioning inspection included a review of the licensee's current performance related to decommissioning activities and radioactive waste management.

Research and Test Reactor Decommissioning

The inspector determined that the licensee was making good progress towards completing decontamination and dismantlement activities. No radiological concerns were identified during a facility tour and observation of work in progress.

Report Details¹

1.0 Research and Test Reactor Decommissioning (69013)

1.1 Inspection Scope

The inspector reviewed the remaining major decommissioning activities and evaluated current work activities.

1.2 Observations and Findings

After about six months of minimal dismantlement activity, recent budget request approvals have enabled decommissioning activities to proceed at a fast pace. Currently scheduled work includes the removal of a concrete column, removal or decontamination of over 350 linear feet of piping embedded in concrete, removal of an estimated 335 linear feet of piping buried under the first floor, removal of an estimated 127 linear feet of piping buried below or contained within the basement floor slab, decontamination of the hot and cold sumps, decontamination of the transfer chute, and the remediation of storage ports and associated vent lines. The licensee's goal is to complete these activities by the end of November 2008. The disposal of radioactive waste generated from these actions will occur after all the work is completed.

The primary activity in progress during the inspection was the cutting of a floor slab with a large diameter concrete diamond saw. Observation of the diamond saw work and a tour of the facility determined that work areas were adequately established to ensure the control of radioactive material, step-off pads were in use, areas were roped off and labeled, personal protective clothing was adequate, and radioactive waste was being appropriately stored.

1.3 Conclusion

The inspector determined that the licensee was making good progress towards completing decontamination and dismantlement activities. No radiological concerns were identified during a facility tour and observation of work in progress.

2.0 Exit Meeting Summary

The inspectors presented the inspection results to licensee management at the conclusion of the onsite inspection on August 28, 2008. The licensee acknowledged the findings presented.

ATTACHMENT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

¹ A List of acronyms used in the report is included at the end of the Report Details.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED

Licensee

*C. Becker, Decommissioning Reactor Manager

*Indicates presence at the exit meeting held on August 28, 2008.

INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED

IP 69013 Research and Test Reactor Decommissioning

ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED

Opened None

Closed None

Discussed None

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED

DNMS Division of Nuclear Material Safety
NRC Nuclear Regulatory Commission

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

Documents used during the inspection were specifically identified in the Report Details, above.