

February 27, 1997

Georgia Institute of Technology
ATTN: Dr. Ratib A. Karam, Director
Neely Nuclear Research Center
225 North Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30332

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-160/96-05

Dear Dr. Karam:

This will acknowledge receipt of your response of February 13, 1997, to the Exercise Weakness identified in the inspection report issued on December 20, 1996.

Our initial review of your response considered both the previous emergency preparedness inspection of October 1994, and the subject inspection of November 1996 since both contained similar findings. During the October 1994 exercise, an Exercise Weakness was identified for failure to classify the event in a timely manner (Report No. 50-160/94-04). The November 1996 inspection (Report No. 50-160/96-05) contained an Exercise Weakness for failure to declare the correct emergency classification in a timely manner. The Exercise Weaknesses raise concern regarding the training adequacy for alternate Emergency Directors.

In order for us to complete our review of your response, please provide the following additional information within 30 days of the date of this letter.

1. Please confirm that the necessary corrective actions will be completed prior to receipt of reactor fuel or December 1, 1997, whichever is earlier.
2. Provide the scope of the table top exercises or retraining that will be conducted.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

/s/

Edward J. McAlpine, Chief
Fuel Facilities Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No. 50-160
License No. R-97

cc: (See Page 2)

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