



Georgia Institute of Technology

College of Engineering
Office of the Dean

April 3, 2000

Docket No. 50-160

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Attention: Mr. Marvin M. Mendonca, Senior Project Manager
Non-Power Reactors and Decommissioning Project Directorate
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Subject: Monthly Status Report for Georgia Tech Research Reactor (GTRR) D&D Project

References: 1. Enclosure 2, Status Report, Georgia Tech letter dated October 6, 1997
2. Georgia Tech Research Reactor NRC Amendment 14 to Facility License No. R-97.
3. NRC Docket No. 50-160

Dear Mr. Mendonca:

Enclosed for your information is the status report for the Georgia Tech Research Reactor decommissioning program covering activities for the month of March 2000.

Please note that the decommissioning project is tracking on schedule for completion on 19 June 00. The final USNRC Survey should be scheduled to begin mid-July 2000.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact our project manager, Mr. Bill Miller, at 404-894-4610.

Sincerely,

J. Narl Davidson
Associate Dean
College of Engineering
Chair, Technical Safety Review Committee

Enclosure: as stated

Cc: Dr. G. Wayne Clough, President, Georgia Institute of Technology
Ms. Amelia Gambino, Georgia Tech Office of Communications
Mr. Craig H. Bassett, USNRC Atlanta
Mr. Jon M. Richards, USEPA, Region IV
Mr. Thomas Hill, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Members, Technical Safety Review Committee

College of Engineering
Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0360 U.S.A.
PHONE 404-894-3350
FAX 404-894-0168

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT – March 2000

Docket No. 50-160

Georgia Tech Research Reactor (GTRR) Decommissioning Program
April 03, 1999

A. General

The GTRR remains under a safe shutdown condition. The reactor facility is in compliance with its license conditions and current technical specifications (10CFR50.51(b)).

B. Activities that took place during the month of March 2000:

1. The GTRR Technical Safety Review Committee (TSRC) held regular bi-weekly meetings to review the progress of decommissioning and to review plans and procedures submitted by the Decommissioning Contractor.

2. A letter was forwarded on March 22, 2000, from the Neely Nuclear Research Center to USNRC, requesting approval for the GTRR Decommissioning Project to adopt the NRC Policy Paper SECY-94-145 regarding free release standards for hard to detect isotopes, namely tritium and iron-55. In subsequent discussions with the NRC, a mutual agreement was reached that a 10 CFR 50.59 process evaluation should be completed to determine if there is a need for approval from the NRC to proceed with adopting this policy paper. Georgia Tech is currently completing this evaluation.

3. The Decommissioning Contractor completed the following decommissioning tasks:

- Removed Control Room HVAC Unit
- Removed ECCS piping to reactor
- Removed Guppy system plugs and piping
- Removed Diffractometer plug
- Removed Startup source from reactor
- Removed Nuclear instrumentation and fission chambers
- Removed Horizontal beam gates
- Removed Horizontal beam thimbles and graphite plugs
- Removed Vertical experimental thimbles and liners
- Removed Lead Cover
- Removed Upper top shield
- Removed Regulating rod
- Removed shim safety rods and drives
- Removed Flow restricter
- Removed Fast flux vertical port thimbles and liners
- Removed lower top shield plug

4. A total of nine shipments (approximately 220,000 lbs.) of low specific activity waste have been sent to the GTS Duratek processing facility at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

5. The annual audit of the Georgia Tech Radiation Safety Program covering calendar year 1999 was conducted during March. This audit is the responsibility of the Technical Safety Review Committee and the Georgia Tech Radiation Safety Committee. The report of findings and corrective action will be made available to USNRC. The Executive Engineer also completed an oversight inspection of the D&D contractor focusing on verifying that the D&D program was meeting requirements of the NRC approved Decommissioning Plan and to determine if the licensed D&D activities were being conducted in a manner

that protects the health and safety of the workers and the general public. The report of the audit team will also be made available to the USNRC.

C. Planned Activities for April 2000.

1. Continue decommissioning operations. Decommissioning tasks scheduled in April:

- Cut spray manifold from lower top shield
- Cut lower top shield for waste disposal purposes
- Remove reactor vessel and segment for disposal
- Remove isotope chambers
- Remove thermal column
- Remove Biomedical shield
- Remove graphite
- Remove graphite retaining sleeve
- Remove bioshield steel shell
- Demolish bioshield and remove spent fuel holes
- Remove all bioshield liner

2.