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April 10, 2000

Document Control Desk
c/o Mr. Theodore S. Michaels
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Submission of Decommissioning Report, 10 C.F.R. 50.75 (d)
Cornell TRIGA Reactor, Facility License R-80, Doc. No. 50-157
Cornell Zero Power Reactor, Facility License R-89, Doc. No. 50-97

Dear Mr. Michaels:

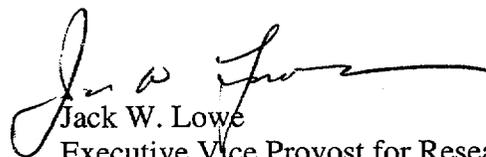
In accordance with the requirement of 10 CFR 50.33 (k) (2) and 50.75 (d), Cornell University submits the enclosed Decommissioning Report for the TRIGA Reactor and Zero-Power Reactor.

Cornell University currently maintains an AA+ bonding rating from Standard and Poor's and a rating of Aa from Moody's. Also, an independently audited financial report for fiscal year 1998-99 was recently sent to NRC by the University Treasurer's office. We believe that Cornell meets the criteria in 10 CFR Part 30 Appendix E for self-guaranteeing the decommissioning cost for both reactors.

The University's annual financial report and updated decommissioning cost estimate will be sent to the Commission yearly. Should there be any reason that Cornell no longer meets the self-guarantee requirements, a notice will be sent to the NRC establishing an alternative financial assurance.

If there are any questions concerning the Decommissioning Report and self-guarantee assurances, please do not hesitate to contact me or Dr. Kenan Ünlü, Director of Ward Center for Nuclear Sciences, 105 Ward Laboratory, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 14853 (607-255-5224) or Patricia Johnson, Assistant Treasurer, 3rd Floor Terrace Hill, Ithaca, New York 14850 (607-277-0022).

Sincerely,



Jack W. Lowe
Executive Vice Provost for Research

Enc.: Decommissioning Report
Doc Nos. 50-157 and 50-97

Cc: Dr. Kenan Ünlü, Director, Ward Center
Patricia Johnson, Assistant Treasurer
Shirley K. Egan, Associate University Counsel

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DECOMMISSIONING REPORT

pursuant to 10 CFR 50.33 (k) (2) and 50.75 (d)
for the Cornell University TRIGA (License R-80)
and Zero Power (License R-89) Reactors

The cost estimate for decommissioning the Cornell University TRIGA Reactor facility, in FY 99 dollars, is \$4.01 million including a 25% contingency. This estimate is based on a cost study for decommissioning the University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois (UIUC) Reactor conducted by GTS Duratek, Inc. in April 1998. The cost estimate for the 1.5 MW, UIUC-TRIGA reactor was \$4.38 million in terms of FY 98 dollars. The UIUC-TRIGA and Cornell TRIGA facilities are structurally very similar. However, the operating power levels of the two reactors are different, therefore the estimated decommissioning cost for the Cornell TRIGA has been adjusted accordingly. The new cost estimate for the Cornell TRIGA revises the previous estimate of \$3.82 million (1998 dollars) provided as part of the decommissioning report of FY98. The FY 99 cost estimate includes a 5% increase from the FY 98 estimate to adjust inflation costs on Labor, Energy and Waste Burial Charges. The cost estimate for decommissioning the Cornell TRIGA facility will be adjusted annually using the formula given in 10 CFR 50.75 (c) (2) or increased inflation costs and uncertain increases in other cost factors.

The decommissioning process for the Cornell Zero-Power Reactor (ZPR) is continuing. The cost estimate for finishing the decommissioning process is \$50,000. This estimate revises the previous estimate of \$450,000 provided as part of the decommissioning report of FY98. The main expense for the remaining decommissioning process is the shipment of ZPR fuel. DOE, through its contractor GEM Technologies Inc., is assuming the financial responsibility for the retrieval of ZPR fuel from Cornell. We believe that the above cost figure is sufficient to complete the decommissioning of the Cornell ZPR reactor.