

July 20, 2001

Mr. Stephen Mahfood, Director
State of Missouri
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Dear Mr. Mahfood:

This is in response to your letter dated July 12, 2001, regarding the NRC Environmental Assessment (EA) for the licensing action to recapture the period of construction for the University of Missouri-Columbia Research Reactor (MURR) located in Columbia, Missouri. You requested that the NRC offer an opportunity for public review and comment on the EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The regulatory action before the NRC in this case is not considered a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment nor does it meet any of the other criteria under 10 CFR 51.20 that govern the need to develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Therefore, an EA and FONSI have been prepared. As I had indicated to your staff, it is NRC policy to communicate with the designated official of the State in which a facility is located prior to the issuance of an EA; however, it is not our common practice to circulate an EA for public comment. Nonetheless, in light of your request, the NRC has determined to exercise its discretion to circulate the EA for a 30-day public comment period. We will be issuing a *Federal Register* notice to invite public comment on the EA and the NRC will consider those comments within the scope of the environmental review.

We will ensure that your office is aware of the *Federal Register* notice and look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Alexander Adams, Jr., Senior Project Manager
Events Assessment, Generic Communications and
Non-Power Reactors Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-186

cc: Please see next page

University of Missouri-Columbia

Docket No. 50-186

cc:

University of Missouri
Associate Director
Research Reactor Facility
Columbia, MO 65201

A-95 Coordinator
Division of Planning
Office of Administration
P.O. Box 809, State Capitol Building
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Mr. Ron Kucera, Director
Intergovernmental Cooperation
and Special Projects
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

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ACCESSION NO.: ML011940374

TEMPLATE #: NRR-056

*Please see previous concurrence

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