

August 17, 2001

Mr. Ken Midkiff, Director  
Missouri Sierra Club  
1007 North College Ave.  
Suite 1  
Columbia, MO 65201

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH REACTOR

Dear Mr. Midkiff:

This is in response to your letter of July 9, 2001, concerning the licensing action to recapture the time of construction into the term of the operating license for the University of Missouri-Columbia Research Reactor (MURR). You requested that the NRC make the environmental assessment (EA) for this proposed licensing action available for public comment and mail the EA to all persons living within 2 miles of the MURR. It is NRC's policy to communicate with the designated official of the State in which a facility is located prior to issuance of an EA; however, it is not our common practice to circulate an EA for public comment. Nonetheless, in light of a request from the State of Missouri, the NRC has determined to exercise its discretion to provide the EA to the public for a 30-day comment period. We issued a Federal Register notice to invite public comment on the EA on August 1, 2001, and the NRC will consider those comments within the scope of the environmental review.

Your letter expressed concern about extension of the operating license in order to accommodate the provisions of the construction permit. The construction permit was subsumed by the operating license in 1966. The license amendment request concerns recapture of the period of time when the construction permit was in effect and does not concern any provisions of the construction permit. The requested license amendment is not an action to issue a new license, an action to renew a license, or an action that would change the design or operation of the facility. The staff's technical review focuses on ensuring that the requirements of the regulations and license will continue to be satisfied.

You point out that there are other regulatory issues involving this licensee. There is no direct connection between the issues raised in your letter and the requested license amendment. The issues are being separately addressed in accordance with the applicable NRC policies, regulations, and practices.

Mr. K. Midkiff

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The official government method to provide information to the public on Federal actions is through the Federal Register. The NRC does not have a mechanism for mailing the EA to all persons living within 2 miles of the facility and, therefore, we will not be able to accommodate your request. However, we did ensure that your office became aware of the Federal Register notice and look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Alexander Adams, Jr., Senior Project Manager  
Operational Experience 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

Mr. Ralph Butler, Interim Director  
Research Reactor Facility  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, MO 65211

Mr. K. Midkiff

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**ACCESSION NO.: ML011970438**

**TEMPLATE #: NRR-056**

\*Please see previous concurrence

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