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Rules and Directives
Branch
USNRC

7425 Teasdale
St. Louis, MO 63130

Mr. Michael T. Lesar, Chief /MS T6-D59
Rules and Directives Branch—Admin. Services
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Sir:

I am opposed to extending the operating license for the University of Missouri—Columbia's research reactor. The aging research reactor not only poses a threat to the students of UMC, but to the whole state as well. A full Environmental Impact Statement is needed before the state and the University of Missouri find themselves with a disaster on their hands, either in the form of nuclear waste they can't get rid of or, God forbid, in a nuclear accident.

UMC's high-enriched uranium waste has no place to go. After 14 years, Yucca Mountain is looking less and less likely as a final repository for such waste. South Carolina is also looking pretty unlikely as a repository. The citizens of Missouri, when they discover UMC's waste will most likely wind up right here on our most populated university campus, will be outraged.

In addition, keeping bomb-grade uranium at UMC suggests other risks. Uranium in the hands of terrorists is of worldwide concern, and we should discontinue use of any facility that could make terrorist destruction possible. Also, a very flammable substance, graphite, surrounds the beryllium shield of the UMC reactor core. Why provide fuel on a Missouri campus for the kind of dangerous fire the world experienced at Chernobyl?

It is time to consider not an extension of the operating license of the UMC reactor, but a denial of that license. It is simply too dangerous to continue operating an aging nuclear reactor with highly enriched, bomb-grade uranium in a college town without adequate emergency facilities or security. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Sandra A. Lowes

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