

April 27, 2005

Dr. Warren D. Reece, Director
Nuclear Science Center
Texas A&M University System
Texas Engineering Experiment Station
F.E. Box 89, M/S 3575
College Station, TX 77843

SUBJECT: TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION—REQUEST
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON CHAPTER 9, AUXILIARY SYSTEMS
(TAC NO. MC2315)

Dear Dr. Reece:

We are continuing our review of the Application for Renewal of License No. R-83, Docket No. 50-128 for the Texas A&M Nuclear Science Center TRIGA research reactor. The application was submitted on February 27, 2003. During our review of Chapter 9 of the Safety Analysis Report for the application, questions have arisen for which we require additional information and clarification. In accordance with my conversation with Mr. James A. Remlinger of your staff and Mr. Remlinger's letter of March 30, 2005, please provide responses to the enclosed request for additional information with your proposal for conversion of the research reactor to low enriched uranium fuel. As I understand this proposal is expected to be sent to NRC in October 2006. If this schedule changes, please notify me at your earliest convenience. In accordance with 10 CFR 50.30(b), your response must be executed in a signed original under oath or affirmation. Following receipt of the additional information, we will continue our evaluation of your request.

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact me at 301-415-1128.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Marvin M. Mendonca, Senior Project Manager
Research and Test Reactors Section
New, Research and Test Reactors Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-128

Enclosure: As stated

cc with enclosure: See next page

Texas A&M University System

Docket No. 50-128

cc:

Texas A&M University System
ATTN: James A. Remlinger, Reactor Manager
Nuclear Science Center
Texas Engineering Experiment Station
F.E. Box 89, M/S 3575
College Station, TX 77843

Texas State Department of Health
Radiation Control Program Director
Bureau of Radiation Control
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756-3189

Test, Research, and Training
Reactor Newsletter
202 Nuclear Sciences Center
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

U.S. Customs Service
Safety Branch
ATTN: Mr. Rick Whitman
6026 Lakeside Boulevard
Indianapolis, IN 46278

U.S. Department of Transportation
Mr. Raymond Lamagdelaine, Special
Investigations Chief
Office of Hazardous Materials Enforcement
DHR-40
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

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ADAMS ACCESSION NO.: ML051120373

TEMPLATE No.: NRR-088

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DATE	4/26/05		4/26/05		4/26/05	

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
DOCKET NO. 50-128

1. In SAR Section 6.2.1, a stack height of 84 feet is given and in 9.1.2 a height of 85 feet is stated. Provide clarification.
2. For the fuel storage locations, provide a discussion of compliance with the criticality monitoring requirements of 10 CFR 70.24(a).
3. Provide a description of the plans or procedures for receiving, inspecting, and documenting the arrival of new fuel to assure that all SNM is accounted for and that the fuel meets procurement specifications.
4. When would irradiated fuel be stored dry? Section 11.1.1.3 states that typical four element fuel bundles will generate fields of 100 to 1000 R/hr at three feet if removed from the reactor pool. What precautions would be implemented to protect worker and public safety?
5. Provide additional description of the fire protection system. Discuss any other fire protection systems other than fire extinguishers (e.g. hose stations or hydrants, even outside building). Discuss if there are any manual pull stations. Discuss the potential reporting of a fire by phone or by public address system. Discuss where the detection system alarms in addition to the offsite fire station. Are the doors to the reactor room fire rated? Discuss how these provisions and systems meet the applicable fire code or standards. Discuss the training that is conducted for use of the systems.
6. Discuss if there is a floor drain system to collect fire fighting water. If so, to where or what does the floor drain system drain?