

June 22, 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 7, INSTRUMENTATION AND  
CONTROL 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 7 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 49<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590

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**TEMPLATE No.: NRR-088**

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

1. The SAR indicates that nearly all of the original measuring instruments were replaced with solid-state electronics. Was this modification performed in accordance with Guidance of NRC Generic Letter 95-02, Use of NUMARC/EPRI Report Tr-102348, "Guideline on Licensing Digital Upgrades," in Determining the Acceptability of Performing Analog-to-digital Replacements under 10 CFR 50.59? If not, describe the standards and guidance that were used.
2. The LSSS described in TS 14.2.2 (use of power LSSS during steady-state operations when fuel temperature channel is not available) appears to be a change from the previous TS which required the availability of both instrument channels. Please provide clarification on the purpose and necessity for this change.