

July 18, 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 8, ELECTRICAL POWER
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 8 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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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
DOCKET NO. 50-128

1. The SAR indicates that a loss of normal AC power would not affect the ability to achieve and maintain safe shutdown conditions in the reactor. Please clarify if AC power is needed for other services, such as emergency notifications, ensuring the safety of experiments and radiation monitoring equipment.