

October 23, 2006

Mr. John A. Bernard  
Director of Reactor Operations  
MIT Nuclear Reactor Laboratory  
Mail Stop NW12-208a  
138 Albany Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF DECOMMISSIONING FUNDING for MIT RESEARCH REACTOR,  
LICENSE No. R-37; DOCKET No. 50-20

Dear Mr. Bernard:

I am in receipt of your July 5, 2006 letter, requesting that the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) consent to increasing the decommissioning funding for the MIT Research Reactor to \$23,000,000. There are no proposed changes to the \$1,125,000 decommissioning funding provided for the Special Nuclear Materials License (SNM-986). NRC consent is required as stipulated by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Amended Escrow Agreement, dated November 30, 2005, for the Decommissioning Trust, currently held to eventually decommission the MIT Research Reactor, License No. R-37; Docket No. 50-20.

On October 11, 2006, the NRC received and reviewed the Duke Engineering and Services Executive Summary completed in 2001, updating the decommissioning cost estimate for the MIT Research Reactor.

The NRC approves the proposed decommissioning funding increase to \$23,000,000 for the MIT Research Reactor. Accordingly, an amendment to the Amended Escrow Agreement to reflect this increase is acceptable. Furthermore, there is no objection holding the decommissioning funds for both the MIT Research Reactor with the decommissioning funds for the Special Nuclear Materials License in the same Decommissioning Trust, so long as a separate accounting is maintained for the two decommissioning funds.

If you have any further questions about this matter, please feel free to call me at 301.415.1260.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Michael A. Dusaniwskyj  
Financial, Policy & Rulemaking Branch,  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation