

April 13, 2011

Ms. Betty Adrian
Reactor Administrator
Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
PO Box 25046 MS 975
Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225-0046

SUBJECT: U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY – RESPONSE TO U.S.G.S LETTER - REQUEST FOR AN 18-MONTH EXTENSION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE LICENSE RENEWAL (TAC NO. ME1593)

Dear Ms. Adrian:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is continuing its review of your application for the renewal of Facility Operating License No. R-113 for the U.S. Geological Survey TRIGA Reactor (GSTR), dated January 5, 2009, (a redacted version of the safety analysis report is available on the NRC's public Web site at www.nrc.gov under Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML092120136). By letter dated September 29, 2010, we sent you a request for additional information (RAI) (ADAMS Accession No. ML102510077). In your latest correspondence, by letter dated February 11, 2011 (ADAMS Accession No. ML 110480046), you requested an 18 month extension to complete those complex RAI responses that will require outside assistance because of the required use of detailed computer codes.

In a telephone conference call conducted on April 6, 2011, Mr. Debey indicated the necessary technical support had been identified and that the RAI responses could be provided by September 1, 2011. Additionally, Mr. Debey agreed to provide a monthly update as to the progress of the technical work associated with these RAIs. In summary, we agree with your extension request for the following reasons: 1) it is your first request; 2) there were a large number of complex questions requiring significant analyses; and, 3) more notably, you have demonstrated sustained progress in completing the RAI responses, and maintained good communication with the NRC regarding the status of your RAI response efforts.

Please continue to provide the monthly RAI responses, and include the status of the responses to the technical RAIs. Also, please advise us as soon as possible if the September 1, 2011 date for the technical RAI responses may not be met. In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 50.30(b), you must execute your response in a signed original document under oath or affirmation. Your response must be submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 50.4, "Written Communications." Information included in your response that is considered security, sensitive, or proprietary, that you seek to have withheld from the public, must be marked in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public inspections, exemptions, requests for withholding."

B. Adrian

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If you have any questions about this review or if you need additional time to respond to this request; please contact me by telephone at 301-415-0893 or by electronic mail at geoffrey.wertz@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Geoffrey Wertz, Project Manager
Research and Test Reactors Licensing Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-274

License No. R-113

cc: See next page

U.S. Geological Survey TRIGA Reactor

Docket No. 50-274

cc:

Mr. Brian Nielsen
Environmental Services Manager
480 S. Allison Pkwy.
Lakewood, CO 80226

Mr. Eugene W. Potter
State of Colorado
Radiation Management Program
HMWM-RM-B2
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246

Mr. Timothy DeBey
Reactor Director
U.S. Geological Survey
Box 25046 - Mail Stop 424
Denver Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225

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

B. Adrian

- 2 -

If you have any questions about this review or if you need additional time to respond to this request; please contact me by telephone at 301-415-0893 or by electronic mail at geoffrey.wertz@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Geoffrey Wertz, Project Manager
Research and Test Reactors Licensing Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-274

License No. R-113

cc: See next page

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML111020032 *concurrence via e-mail NRR-088

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Date	4/11/2011	4/12/2011	4/12/11	4/13/11

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