TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION
NUCLEAR SCIENCE CENTER

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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October 5, 2016 2016-0051
Docket Number 50-59 / License No. R-23

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555
Ref: 10 CFR 50.90

SUBJECT: Changes to the Texas A&M University AGN-201M Technical Specification Pages 11 and 14, Supporting the November 11, 2015, License Amendment Request for the AGN-201M Reactor, Facility License R-23, Docket Number 50-59 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15315A027)

Attn: Mr. Alexander Adams Jr., Chief,
Research and Test Reactors Branch
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

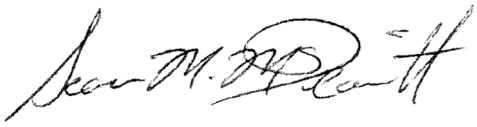
Mr. Patrick M. Boyle, Project Manager,
Research and Test Reactors Branch
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

The purpose of this letter is to submit proposed changes to the Texas A&M University (TAMU) AGN-201M Technical Specifications (TSs) pages 11 and 14. In the June 17, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16169A346), supplement to the November 11, 2015, license amendment request, changes were proposed to the AGN-201M TSs regarding the storage location and surveillance requirements of the AGN-201M reactor and associated components to be stored at the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) Nuclear Science Center (NSC) site; the TEES NSC operates a 1 MW TRIGA reactor at this site under operating license R-83. Technical Specification Section 3.5 on page 11 of the proposed TS, and TS Section 4.5 on page 14 of the proposed TS used the abbreviation “NSC” instead fully stating “Nuclear Science Center.” The proposed changes enclosed with this letter alter the titles of TSs Section 3.5 and 4.5 to fully specify “Nuclear Science Center” in the proper designated locations. Therefore, the enclosure comprises revised TS pages 11 and 14.

These proposed changes to the TS do not change the initial “no significant hazards determination” stated in the November 11, 2015 application. Should you have any questions regarding the information provided in this submittal, please contact me or Mr. Jerry Newhouse at (979) 845-7551 or via email at mcdeavitt@tamu.edu or newhouse@tamu.edu.

Oath of Affirmation
I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Sincerely,



Sean M. McDeavitt, PhD
Director, TEES Nuclear Science Center
Submitted with Level 2 Delegate Authorization from Dr. Yassin Hassan in letter dated February 8, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16043A048)

Enclosure: Revised AGN-201M TS Pages 11 and 14

CC: next page

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ENCLOSURE

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

FACILITY LICENSE R-23, DOCKET NO. 50-59

AMENDED FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

AGN-201M REACTOR

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

watt, and that the total gamma, thermal neutron, and fast neutron dose rate in the accelerator room is less than 15 mrem/hr at reactor power levels less than or equal to 5.0 watts and the thermal column filled with water.

The facility shielding in conjunction with radiation monitoring, control, and restricted areas is designed to limit radiation doses to facility personnel and to the public to a level below 10 CFR 20 limits under operating conditions, and to a level below criterion 19, Appendix A, 10 CFR 50 recommendations under accident conditions.

3.5 AGN-201M Reactor Components Stored at the Nuclear Science Center (NSC) Facility

Applicability

This specification applies to all AGN-201M reactor components stored at the NSC facility.

Objective

To verify the AGN-201M reactor components, are in two specified secured locations with no evidence of tampering, while stored at the NSC facility.

Specifications

1. Accelerator Building

AGN-201M reactor components shall be stored in a secured fenced area in the Accelerator Building. The AGN-201M Reactor Supervisor or designee shall control access to the secured fenced area.

The following AGN-201M reactor components shall be stored in the Accelerator Building:

a. AGN-201M reactor control panel and associated electronic equipment

b. AGN-201M Shield Tank, Reactor Tank, Core Tank, and associated internal components

2. Cargo Container

AGN-201M reactor components not stored in the Accelerator Building shall be stored in a secured cargo container with a tamper proof seal affixed in such a way that opening the cargo container will break the seal. Access to the cargo container shall be restricted to personnel authorized by the AGN-201M Reactor Supervisor or designee.

Bases

These Technical Specifications ensure that the AGN-201M reactor components are secured and prevent tampering while stored at the NSC facility.

Specification

a. All portable radiation survey instruments assigned to the reactor facility shall be calibrated under the supervision of the Radiological Safety Office annually, but at intervals not to exceed 16 months.

b. Prior to each day's reactor operation or prior to each reactor operation extending more than one day, the reactor room high radiation area alarm (Ref. 3.4e) shall be verified to be operable.

c. A radiation survey of the reactor room, reactor control room, and accelerator room shall be performed under the supervision of the Radiological Safety Office annually, but at intervals not to exceed 16 months, to determine the location of radiation and high radiation areas corresponding to reactor operating power levels.

Bases

The periodic calibration of radiation monitoring equipment and the surveillance of the reactor room high radiation area alarm (Ref. 3.4e) will assure that the radiation monitoring and control systems are operable during reactor operation.

The periodic radiation surveys will verify the location of radiation and high radiation areas and will assist reactor facility personnel in properly labeling and controlling each location in accordance with 10 CFR 20.

4.5 Reactor Components Stored at the Nuclear Science Center (NSC) Facility

Applicability

This applies to the surveillance requirements of the AGN-201M reactor components stored at the NSC Facility.

Objective

To verify the AGN-201M reactor components remain stored in specified locations and protected from tampering while at the NSC facility.

Specifications

a. NSC Accelerator Building

1. Once a quarter the secured fenced area in the Accelerator Building shall be inspected to verify all reactor components are present and no indications of tampering exist. If indications of tampering are discovered, the Director of Nuclear Engineering or designee shall be notified. In addition, a special report in accordance with Technical Specification Section 6.9.3 shall be transmitted to the U.S. NRC.