

April 6, 2017

Mr. Ralph Butler, Executive Director
University of Missouri-Columbia
Research Reactor Center
1513 Research Park Drive
Columbia, MO 65211

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA - NON-POWER REACTOR
CLOSEOUT OF GENERIC LETTER 2016-01, "MONITORING OF
NEUTRON-ABSORBING MATERIALS IN SPENT FUEL POOLS," FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-COLUMBIA RESEARCH REACTOR, DOCKET
NO. 50-186 (CAC NO. A11010)

On April 7, 2016, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 2016-01, "Monitoring of Neutron-Absorbing Materials in Spent Fuel Pools" (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16097A169), to address the degradation of neutron-absorbing materials (NAM) in wet storage systems for reactor fuel at power and non-power reactors.

For the non-power reactors, GL 2016-01 requested that licensees provide facility-specific information related to the use of NAM. This information was needed by the NRC staff to verify continued compliance through licensee implementation of effective methods for monitoring of reactor fuel in wet storage so as to detect and mitigate any degradation or deformation of NAM when credited in the facility licensing or design basis for criticality control of fuel in wet storage.

On November 2, 2016, the University of Missouri-Columbia Research Reactor (MURR) submitted a response to GL 2016-01 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16309A183). The NRC staff conducted a review of that response and noted that MURR credits the use BORAL NAM in the licensing or design basis for criticality control of fuel in wet storage. The information submitted in response to GL 2016-01 included a discussion of the surveillance activities used to confirm continued acceptable performance in compliance with Technical Specification (TS) 3.8, Specification d. (as a result of the MURR renewal license, TS 3.8, Specification d., is now TS 5.4, Specification a.), over time and to provide early detection of BORAL degradation or deformation. Based on the information provided, the NRC staff has determined that the submission addresses the information requested in GL 2016-01. No further information or action is requested regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA Duane Hardesty Acting for/

Alexander Adams Jr., Chief
Research and Test Reactor Licensing Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

University of Missouri-Columbia

Docket No. 50-186

cc:

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML17075A117; *concurrence via e-mail

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