

April 26, 2018

Dr. Timothy Koeth, Director  
Nuclear Reactor and Radiation Facilities  
University of Maryland  
Department of Materials Science  
and Engineering  
4418 Stadium Drive  
College Park, MD 20742-2115

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND – ACCEPTANCE OF REQUESTED LICENSING  
ACTION RE: AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR THE USE OF 16 ADDITIONAL  
FUEL ELEMENTS IN THE MARYLAND UNIVERSITY TRAINING REACTOR  
(EPID NO. L-2018-LLA-0037)

Dear Dr. Koeth:

By letter dated January 29, 2018 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML18032A096), as supplemented by letter dated March 26, 2018 (ADAMS Accession No. ML18092A086), the University of Maryland submitted a license amendment request (LAR) for Maryland University Training Reactor. The proposed LAR would allow for the addition of 16 lightly used TRIGA (Training, Research, Isotopes, General Atomics) fuel elements into the current 93-element core.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this LAR. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the facility.

Consistent with Section 50.90, "Application for amendment of license, construction permit, or early site permit," of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), whenever a holder of a license desires to amend the license, an application for an amendment must be filed with the Commission, as specified in 10 CFR 50.4, "Written communications," fully describing the changes desired, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 50.34, "Contents of applications; technical information," of 10 CFR addresses the content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

The NRC staff reviewed the University of Maryland's application, as supplemented, and concluded that it contains technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Based on our preliminary evaluation of the

information in the application, as supplemented, the NRC staff anticipates completing our review of the LAR request within 10 months from date of this letter.

Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. If there are emergent complexities or challenges during the NRC staff's review that would result in a delay to the review schedule, we will promptly communicate the reasons for the delay and provide a revised schedule for completion. The University of Maryland will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-4103 or by electronic mail at [Linh.Tran@nrc.gov](mailto:Linh.Tran@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Linh N. Tran, Senior Project Manager  
Research and Test Reactors Licensing Branch  
Division of Licensing Projects  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-166  
License No. R-70

cc: See next page

University of Maryland

Docket No. 50-166

cc:

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 (EPID NO. L-2018-LLA-0037) DATE: APRIL 26, 2018

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**ADAMS Accession No. ML18101A112**

**\*via email concurrence**

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