

**TELECONFERENCE SUMMARY
PRE-APPLICATION DISCUSSION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE**

Date and Time: May 21, 2018, 9:30 a.m.

Participants: Dr. Wes Hines Robert Johnson Tyrone Naquin

On May 21, 2018, the Branch Chief for the Fuel Manufacturing Branch (FMB), Mr. Robert K. Johnson and the Project Manager (PM), Mr. Tyrone Naquin held a teleconference with the Department Head of the Nuclear Engineering Department for the University of Tennessee (UTENN). This conference call was a follow-up to the initial pre-application meeting held on April 16, 2018. The intent of the call was to discuss UTENN planning for application submittal and budgetary planning and application review and processing for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

Mr. Robert Johnson opened the discussion stating he wanted to confirm planning milestones for UTENN and to provide suggestions to ensure timely review of a license application. Some of the topics discussed in a pre-licensing meeting (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession Number ML18115A050) were revisited for confirmation. Mr. Johnson provided discussion of the importance of a Letter of Intent for resource planning for the NRC in terms of budgetary and personnel concerns. Dr. Wes Hines responded that he has drafted a Letter of Intent which is under review by the Vice Chancellor for Research at this time. He stated he is wanting to get the letter to the NRC this summer in hopes of submitting an application for licensing in approximately 2 years or in the summer of calendar year 2020. Mr. Johnson stated that once the application was received, a typical timeline for completion of review and issuance of a license would be roughly 18 months. Furthermore, he recommended that a public meeting be scheduled prior to submittal of the application to bring together technical reviewers to meet with the applicant to answer questions and provide recommendations in their area of expertise. Dr. Hines expressed interest and support for such a meeting to ensure submittal of the most adequate application.

Dr. Hines had some questions regarding facility construction completion prior to submittal of the application and the required construction detail to be included. The building that will house the project is anticipated to open in 2021. Mr. Naquin stated that as a part of the application review, walkdowns of the facility would be performed by physical security staff to verify security commitments in the application. Mr. Johnson stated that the application process includes various milestones in the application process, including an Acceptance Review to identify significant deficits that might make the application insufficient for review. Further, he stated it is not uncommon for an application to be missing some information, but not disqualifying an application. He described the use of requests for additional information, normally a part of the application review, as a means of acquiring further information during the application review process.

It was agreed that following submission of the Letter of Intent, Mr. Naquin would work with Dr. Hines to schedule a planning meeting, which would likely be in calendar year 2019. At this point, some guidance has been supplied to UTENN in the form of NUREG-1520, Standard Review Plan for Fuel Cycle Facilities License Applications, which would be used as the basis of an application. Additionally, publicly available examples of applications and Safety Evaluation Reports for Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 70 licensees have been provided to promote understanding of the process and the depth of review.

PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTOR

T. D. Naquin

Enclosure