



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 18, 2018

Dr. William Charlton, Director
Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory
The University of Texas at Austin
Pickle Research Campus, Building 159
10100 Burnet Road
Austin, TX 78758

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN – SUMMARY OF SITE VISIT AND
REQUEST FOR SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF THE REACTOR
ANALYSES RE: RENEWAL OF FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. R-129
FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN RESEARCH REACTOR
(EPID NO. L-2017-RNW-0032)

Dear Dr. Charlton:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is continuing its review of the University of Texas at Austin (UTA) application for the renewal of Facility Operating License No. R-129, dated December 12, 2011 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12156A097), as supplemented by letters dated February 21, 2012 (ADAMS Accession No. ML12061A009), and March 8, 2018 (ADAMS Accession No. ML18072A103).

The NRC staff completed its review of the UTA staff responses to our requests for additional information (RAI), provided by UTA letter dated March 8, 2018, and discussed its findings with yourself and other UTA staff during a site visit conducted on August 14 and 15, 2018. At the conclusion of the site visit, the NRC staff provided its assessment of the neutronic and thermal-hydraulic analyses, provided in the March 8, 2018, letter, and explained that some aspects of the analyses were not acceptable, along with the basis for the NRC staff's determination. Furthermore, the NRC staff understood that UTA staff planned to obtain technical support from the Department of Energy to support completion of the neutronic and T-H analyses.

In order to more effectively manage its resources, the NRC staff requests that UTA staff provide a schedule for the submission of the updated neutronic and T-H analyses, within 30 days from the date of this letter for the schedule. In addition, it may be useful to include a few project milestones within the schedule to provide the NRC staff with a better understanding of the project's progress.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.30(b), "Oath or affirmation," UTA must execute its response in a signed original document under oath or affirmation. The response must be submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 50.4, "Written communications." Information included in the response that is considered sensitive or proprietary, that UTA seeks to have withheld from the public, must be marked in accordance

with 10 CFR 2.390, "Public inspections, exemptions, requests for withholding." Any information related to security should be submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 73.21, "Protection of Safeguards Information: Performance Requirements."

If you have any questions, or need additional time to respond to this request, please contact me at (301) 415-0893 or by electronic mail at Geoffrey.Wertz@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Geoffrey A. Wertz, Project Manager
Research and Test Reactors Licensing Branch
Division of Licensing Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-602
License No. R-129

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

University of Texas

Docket No. 50-602

cc:

Bureau of Radiation Control
State of Texas
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, TX 78756

Dr. Gregory L. Fenves
The University of Texas at Austin
Office of the President
110 Inner Campus Drive, G3400
Austin, TX 78712-3400

Maurie McInnis
Executive Vice President and Provost
The University of Texas at Austin
1 University Station, G1000
Austin, TX 78712

DeAnn Walker, Director
Office of the Governor
Office of Budget and Policy
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Mr. Paul Whaley, Associate Director
Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory
The University of Texas at Austin
10100 Burnet Road, Building 159
Austin, TX 78758

Larry Hall, Reactor Supervisor
Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory
The University of Texas at Austin
10100 Burnet Road, Building 159
Austin, TX 78758

Test, Research and Training
Reactor Newsletter
P.O. Box 118300
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611

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