



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

September 5, 2019

Dr. Ayman I. Hawari, Director
Nuclear Reactor Program
Department of Nuclear Engineering
North Carolina State University
Campus Box 7909
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Raleigh, NC 27695-7909

SUBJECT: NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF
WITHDRAWAL OF LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST REGARDING FUELED
EXPERIMENTS FOR THE PULSTAR RESEARCH REACTOR
(EPID NO. L-2018-LLA-0500)

Dear Dr. Hawari:

By letter dated December 4, 2018 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML18341A237), North Carolina State University (NCSU) submitted a license amendment request (LAR) for the NCSU PULSTAR research reactor. NCSU requested the amendment to revise its license conditions (LCs) and technical specifications (TSs) to allow it to increase the quantity of uranium-235 (U-235) in fueled experiments; to allow it to perform fueled experiments with neptunium-237 or plutonium-239, in addition to U-235; and to allow it to perform vented fueled experiments. The amendment would also make other changes related to fueled experiments, including revising the TS definition of “fueled experiment”; adding or revising requirements for radiation monitoring and ventilation equipment; increasing license possession limits for fissile and fissionable materials to be used in fueled experiments; and revising other fueled experiment requirements. NCSU stated that the amendment would allow the LCs and TSs to accommodate its planned experimental needs.

By letter dated August 9, 2019 (ADAMS Accession No. ML19221B597), NCSU notified the NRC staff that it was withdrawing its December 4, 2018, LAR; and, that it had incorporated analyses supporting its proposed fueled experiments into the updated safety analysis report, provided as an enclosure to its August 9, 2019, letter, for its request for PULSTAR reactor license renewal submitted by letter dated February 24, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17088A818), as supplemented.

Therefore, the NRC staff has terminated its review of NCSU’s LAR dated December 4, 2018. However, information provided to the NRC staff in support of the LAR will remain in ADAMS. Furthermore, given that NCSU has incorporated the fueled experiment analyses into its request for license renewal, the NRC staff will evaluate NCSU’s proposed fueled experiments as part of its ongoing license renewal review.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-4067, or by electronic mail at Edward.Helvenston@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RAI

Edward Helvenston, Project Manager
Research and Test Reactors Licensing Branch
Division of Licensing Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-297
License No. R-120

cc: See next page

North Carolina State University

Docket No. 50-297

cc:

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Test, Research and Training
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Attention: Ms. Amber Johnson
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DATE: SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

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ADAMS Accession No. ML19240B545 ***concurred via email** **NRR-106**

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