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

October 23, 1980

Docket No. 50-151

Dr. George H. Miley, Chairman
Nuclear Engineering Program
Nuclear Engineering Laboratory
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois 61801

Dear Dr. Miley:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 3 to Facility Operating License No. R-115 for the University of Illinois Advanced TRIGA reactor located at Urbana, Illinois. This amendment consists of changes in the license in response to your application dated October 16, 1980.

This amendment revises the provisions in the license relating to the type of detector used on the reactor start-up channel, and the procedures used to assure that this channel responds adequately to neutrons before any control rod withdrawal is permitted. Your letter requested authorization to substitute a BF₃ neutron counting system for the currently authorized fission detector. This amendment authorizes the use of either of these detector systems. You also requested authorization to substitute neutron counting and evaluation procedures and an administrative prohibition on control rod withdrawal for the automatic electronic interlock currently authorized. This amendment authorizes you to use either the proposed administrative rod-prohibit procedures or the automatic interlock rod-prohibit with either of the two detectors discussed above.

This is a temporary amendment which expires on April 21, 1981. Your staff has indicated that the fission detector system can be made operational again by that time.

A copy of the related safety evaluation is also enclosed.

Sincerely,

James R. Miller, Chief
Standardization & Special
Projects Branch
Division of Licensing

Enclosures:

- 1. Amendment No. 3 to R-115
- 2. Safety Evaluation

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University of Illinois

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October 23, 1980

cc w/enclosure(s);

Honorable Hiram Paley
City Hall
P. O. Box 219
Urbana, Illinois 61801

cc w/enclosure(s) & incoming
dtd.: 10/16/80

Department of Public Health
ATTN: Chief, Division of
Nuclear Safety
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Springfield, Illinois 62761