



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

PDR
70-1068

MAY 21 1981

DOCKET NO: 70-1068
LICENSEE: University of Florida
FACILITY: Gainesville, Florida Plant
SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA'S SNM LICENSE
REQUESTS

I. Background

The University of Florida (UF) requested renewal of License No. SNM-1050 by letter application dated November 9, 1978. SNM-1050 was originally issued in December 1967, authorizing the possession of 190 kilograms uranium enriched 4.8 percent U-235 contained in SPERT F-1 type fuel rods for use in the University of Florida Subcritical Assembly (UFSA). The license was renewed several times and remains effective under the timely renewal provisions of 70.33(b) 10 CFR 70. By letter dated July 15, 1980, UF requested an amendment to authorize storage of the SPERT fuel in a new storage facility, and to extend the expiration date of the license to December 21, 1985.

While examining the UF dockets, it was found that in addition to SNM-1050, UF possesses Materials License No. SNM-50, which was issued through the FCML branch. SNM-50 authorizes the possession and use of 340 grams plutonium in sealed Pu-Be sources, 340 grams U-235 and 300 milligrams U-233, and is in effect until July 31, 1983. During a telephone conversation with the licensee, discussion concerning the redundancy of submitting applications for both licenses led to the consideration of consolidation. This conversation was followed by the licensee's letter dated April 7, 1981, requesting that licenses SNM-50 and SNM-1050 be combined.

II. Scope of Review

The safety review of UF's request includes a review of applications, correspondence, and compliance history since 1967. The compliance history involved both a review of prior inspections and a telephone conversation with Region II inspector, Gene Coryell. Findings are incorporated in the discussion and recommendation.

III. Discussion and Recommendation

The UFSA has been operating in a secure and responsible manner in respect to radiation and nuclear safety. This has been accomplished through stringent administrative controls and physical barriers to control access.

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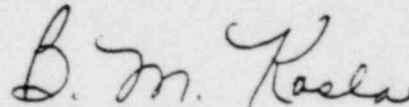
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Improvement in the physical storage area for the SPERT fuel will enhance the safety and security already implemented at UFSA. The procedures which govern movement and transfer of SNM exist and have been reviewed and approved by NRC.

Region II IE stated that the UFSA is used infrequently and is strictly operated under the control of Dr. Diaz. Mr. Coryell indicated if the past performance continues, it would be quite acceptable.

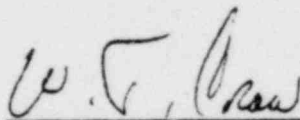
Rather than granting an extension of SNM-1050 to December 1985 as the licensee requested, it is recommended that the license expiration date be extended to July 31, 1983. This expiration date will coincide with that of License SNM-50, and will be a step toward combining the two licenses. Since radiation safety for both licenses is administered through the UF Radiation Control Program, consolidation of the licenses will diminish administrative activities and paperwork for both the licensee and NRC. The 1983 date will allow the licensee time to prepare their application for renewal in the revised format as is currently required.

I recommend approval of the amendment to authorize the change in storage facilities and to change the expiration date of SNM-1050 to July 31, 1983. The licensee should be advised that in 1983, the required application for renewal in its new format should encompass the special nuclear material covered by both licenses.



B. M. Kosla
Uranium Process Licensing Section
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch
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Approved by:



W. T. Crow, Section Leader