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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REGARDING PROPOSED RENEWAL OF  
FACILITY LICENSE NO. R-78  
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
DOCKET NO. 50-148

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility License No. R-78 for the University of Kansas Research Reactor (the licensee) located on the University campus in Lawrence, Kansas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action

This Environmental Assessment is written in connection with the proposed renewal date of January 1, 1995 for the facility license of the University of Kansas Research Reactor (UKRR) at Lawrence, Kansas, in response to a timely application from the licensee dated December 12, 1989, as supplemented on July 12, 1990. The proposed action would authorize continued possession, but not operation, of the facility.

Need for the Proposed Action

The license for the facility was due to expire on April 7, 1990. The proposed action is required to authorize continued possession, but not operation of the facility, so that the licensee can complete their decommissioning plan, and implement decommissioning of the reactor facility.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

An alternative to the proposed action that was considered was not

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renewing the license. This alternative would have led to possession of a facility and radioactive material without authorization by law. This alternative did not provide an acceptable way of decommissioning the facility in a controlled, coordinated manner. The other alternative was to renew the license for a period of one year, but this would require license renewals on an annual basis until decommissioning is completed.

#### Environmental Impact

The reactor is defueled and all special nuclear material and source material have been shipped offsite or transferred to the state license. The only remaining radioactivity at the facility is activated reactor components. There is no potential for generation of further radioactive materials. The extension of the facility possession-only license for a five year period allows the licensee to complete their decommissioning plan and have a reasonable time to fully implement decommissioning. This time to develop and implement the decommissioning plan should lessen the environmental impact, in that, radioactive materials will continue to be depleted by the decay process and the licensee should have an opportunity to better plan and conduct the decommissioning activities thus further reducing the environmental impact.

#### Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources beyond those normally allocated for such activities.

#### Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

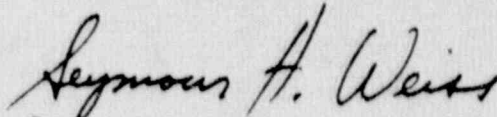
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission has concluded that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for this proposed action.

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's request for a license renewal application dated December 12, 1989, as supplemented on July 12, 1990. These documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 17th day of September 1990.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



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