



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

SAFETY EVALUATION  
IN SUPPORT OF  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES  
ARGONAUT RESEARCH REACTOR  
DOCKET NO. 50-142  
LICENSE NO. R-71  
AMENDMENT NO. 11

Background

UCLA Facility License R-71 specified a maximum fuel inventory of 10 kg. In August 1982, UCLA shipped unirradiated fuel elements to the University of Florida and to Oak Ridge National Laboratory. This reduced their inventory to slightly less than 5 kg. By letter dated February 8, 1983, UCLA requested a license amendment reducing their maximum fuel inventory to 5 kg of U-235.

Safety Analysis

It is our practice to encourage licensees to reflect, where possible, actual on-site fuel inventories in their non-power reactor licenses. Accordingly, following UCLA's fuel shipment, the staff sent a letter dated September 27, 1982 advising them of the above policy. UCLA responded with a request for a license amendment reducing permissible fuel inventory to 5 kg.

Summary

The staff agrees with UCLA's fuel reduction action, and inasmuch as the request satisfies the Commission's policy on reflecting the maximum permissible fuel inventory in the operating license, the staff approves the UCLA request.

Environmental Consideration

We have evaluated the potential for environmental impact of reactor operation in accordance with the enclosed amendment. We have determined that the amendment does not involve a change in effluent types or total amounts nor an increase in power level and will not result in any significant environmental impact. Having made this determination, we have further concluded that the amendment involves an action that is insignificant from the standpoint of environmental impact, and pursuant to 10 CFR Section 51.5(d)(4) an environmental impact statement, negative declaration or environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

Conclusion

We have concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) because the amendment does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously considered and does not involve a significant decrease in a safety margin, the amendment does not involve a significant hazards consideration, (2) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (3) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and the issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Dated: **MAR 02 1983**

This Safety Evaluation was prepared by the Project Manager, Harold Bernard.