



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

FEB 6 1984

Docket No. 50-396

Dr. Jack Brenizer, Director  
UVA Reactor Facility  
Department of Nuclear Engineering  
and Engineering Physics  
University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

Dear Dr. Brenizer:

The Operating License, No. R-123, for your CAVALIER training and research reactor is scheduled to expire on July 30, 1984. This letter is to remind you of that fact, and to provide you guidance in the event that you intend to continue operation and to apply for a renewal of the license. Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR 2.109) allows continued operation under your current license until the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) acts on the application, provided the application is received at least 30 days prior to the expiration date of your current license.

The NRC currently considers the renewal of a nonpower reactor operating license to be equivalent to reissuing the license. Therefore, renewal is not merely a routine administrative step, but involves in-depth reviews of all documentation related to the facility, an on-site review, and the publication in the Federal Register of a notice of your request that provides the opportunity for public participation. Following our review, the NRC will issue a Safety Evaluation Report and an Environmental Impact Assessment, and, if appropriate, a notice of renewal in the Federal Register.

In order for us to perform an adequate review, you are requested to include, as part of your application, all of the following documentation, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.33 & 50.34:

1. Updated or Revised Final Safety Analysis Report (SAR).

This may rely on and specifically reference your existing SAR where it is appropriate and still applicable. It should update any information, modifications, or obsolete features of the facility. As appropriate, quantitative analyses should use best current input data and computational techniques, and should rely wherever possible on facility operating experience since initial licensing.

Furthermore, the FSAR should include updated information and analyses on demography, meteorology, geology, seismology and other natural and unnatural phenomena.

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2. Financial Qualification to Continue Operation (10 CFR 50.33(f)).

This information must show that there is reasonable assurance that the licensee will be able to obtain the funds necessary to cover estimated operating costs for the period of the requested license renewal plus the estimated costs of permanently shutting down the facility and either decommissioning it or maintaining it in a safe condition. To facilitate our review, we request that the following information be provided, appropriately certified:

- a. The most recently published annual financial statement of the university. Indicate the source of funds utilized to cover costs of operation of the reactor facility.
- b. The estimated annual cost to operate the reactor for the requested period of renewal, and a certification that future budgets will include these funds.
- c. The estimated costs of eventually shutting down the reactor and safely disposing of it, a listing of what is included in these costs, the assumptions underlying these estimated costs, the type of shutdown contemplated, and the source of funds to cover these costs.

3. Environmental Data and Discussion.

This information should include sufficient operational data, analyses, and discussion to provide a substantial basis for NRC to develop its Environmental Impact Appraisal (see enclosure for an example).

4. Technical Specifications and License Format

At the time of renewal of operating licenses for nonpower reactors, we are attempting to standardize the format for Technical Specifications in accordance with ANSI/ANS 15.1 (1982), "The Development of Technical Specifications for Research Reactors." You are requested to review your Technical Specifications and make any changes necessary to achieve format compatibility with this standard. Furthermore, if there are any technical changes you would like to make, please propose them at this time for consideration in connection with our review for renewal of your license. Bases must be included to support all "specifications."

In addition to the standardization of format in Technical Specifications, at the time of renewal we are also attempting to achieve consistency in format of the licenses. No action on your part is required in connection with that.

5. Operator Recualification Program.

Provide a copy of your currently approved and implemented operator requalification program to ensure that it is reviewed in the context of current NRC practice for research reactors. Our review will be based on the guidance contained in ANS-15.4 (1978).

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6. Emergency Plan.

You have already submitted an Emergency Plan in accordance with 10 CFR 50.54(r) and other guidance provided to you. Review of your Emergency Plan is continuing.

7. Physical Security Plan.

You have an approved plan. If there are any significant reasons why you would like to make changes in that plan, please request those changes for our review in connection with our general review of your facility for license renewal.

In general, your application for renewal should address the requirements in 10 CFR parts 50, 51, 55 and 73. In addition, you are referred to a letter sent to all licensees of nonpower reactors on June 23, 1971 concerning insertion of explosive materials into reactors. You are reminded that the practices discussed in that letter continue to apply to research reactors.

In general, the NRC staff applies the guidance contained in the Division 2 Regulatory Guides for Research Reactors for its reviews. In addition, we base appropriate reviews on industry standards in the ANS-15 series.

For your further guidance, we are enclosing a copy of a renewal package (RPI) recently issued for a low power training facility similar to the CAVALIER. Upon completion of the technical and safety reviews and a favorable evaluation of your facility, similar documents will be issued in conjunction with renewal of your reactor operating license.

If you have any further questions or comments, please contact Robert Carter, our licensing project manager for your facility at 301-492-9795.

Sincerely,

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Cecil O. Thomas, Chief  
Standardization and Special  
Projects Branch  
Division of Licensing

Enclosure: As stated

<i>Rec</i>	<i>PA</i>	<i>CT</i>
SSPB:DL	SSPB:DL	SSPB:DL
RCarter:1s	PAnderson	CThomas
2/6/84	2/6/84	1/6/84

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