



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 11 TO

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. R-125

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL

DOCKET NO. 50-223

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated December 18, 1991, the University of Massachusetts Lowell (the licensee) formerly known as the University of Lowell, proposed to amend its Technical Specifications (TS) for their 1 Megawatt (Mw) thermal research reactor. The change to the TS is being made to more clearly define the required number of qualified personnel needed to be available whenever the reactor is in operation. Also, the licensee informed the NRC that the State (Massachusetts) higher education system was recently reorganized under one Board of Trustees and that the University of Lowell's name has been officially changed to the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

2.0 EVALUATION

The sections in the TS that are being revised, Section 6.1.4 and 6.1.5 presently read as follow:

- 6.1.4 An operator or senior operator licensed pursuant to 10 CFR 55 shall be present at the controls unless the reactor is secured as defined in these specifications.
- 6.1.5 A Licensed Senior Operator shall be on the console or readily available on call within the Pinanski Building whenever the reactor is in operation.

These sections, as they are presently written, are open to an interpretation which could permit only one operator at the facility when the reactor is operating. For instance, if a licensed Senior Reactor Operator (SRO) is at the console, it could be assumed that this condition also satisfies Section 6.1.5. The licensee has not been operating under that assumption, however, because the present Safety Analysis Report (SAR) and the licensee's procedures are explicit as to the complement, i.e., two that have to be available at the facility when the reactor is operating. In order to make the TS unambiguous, the licensee has revised them to make it explicit that at least two people be at the facility when the reactor is operating. The TS as rewritten generally conform to the American National Standard Institute ANS-15.1, Section

6.1.3(1). Also, the licensee has revised the SAR to make it compatible with the TS change. The staff finds that this change removes the aforementioned ambiguity and is therefore acceptable.

The licensee's name has been changed from the University of Lowell to the University of Massachusetts Lowell as a result of a reorganization to put all state universities under one Board of Trustees. As such, reference to the University of Lowell in any of the license documents can be considered to be synonymous with the University of Massachusetts Lowell, which will be used as the official licensee name in all documents issued hereafter in this license.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

This amendment involves changes in the category of recordkeeping, reporting, and administrative procedures and requirements. Accordingly, this amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(10). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The staff has 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 evaluated, or create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated, and does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety, 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 the proposed activities, 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 the health and safety of the public.

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Dated: February 20, 1992