

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF FINAL FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO  
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. R-70  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
DOCKET NO. 50-166

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an Amendment to Facility Operating License No. R-70 for the University of Maryland research and training reactor (MUTR) located on the University's campus in College Park, Maryland.

The amendment will renew the Operating License until June 29, 2000, in accordance with the licensee's application dated May 23, 1980, as supplemented. Opportunity for hearing was afforded by the Notice of Proposed Issuance published in the Federal Register on August 20, 1980 at 45 FR 55553.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of Proposed Action

The proposed renewal of the reactor Operating License is in accordance with the licensee's application for renewal dated May 23, 1980, as supplemented. The amendment would renew the Operating License of the reactor until June 29, 2000.

Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed renewal is required because the existing Operating License has expired. However, the licensee has made a timely request for authorization to continue operation of the reactor through June 29, 2000.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would authorize the licensee to continue operating the reactor in the same manner that it has been operated since 1974. The environmental impacts associated with the continued operation of the MUTR facility are discussed in an Environmental Assessment dated July 1984. The assessment concluded that continued operation of the MUTR for an additional 16 years will not result in any significant environmental impacts on air, water, land or biota in the area, and that an Environmental Impact Statement need not be prepared. These conclusions were based on the following:

- a) the excess reactivity available under the Technical Specifications is insufficient to support a reactor transient generating enough energy to cause overheating of the fuel or loss of integrity of the cladding,
- b) at steady-state power levels of 250 kilowatts, the inventory of fission products in the fuel cannot generate sufficient radioactive decay heat to cause fuel damage even in the hypothetical event of instantaneous total loss of coolant, and
- c) the hypothetical loss of integrity of the cladding of the maximum irradiated fuel rod will not lead to radiation exposures in the unrestricted environment that exceed the guidelines of 10 CFR Part 20.

In addition, continued operation will not require alteration of buildings or structures, will not lead to changes in effluents released from the facility to the environment, will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, and will not involve any unresolved issues concerning alternative uses of available resources. Based on the foregoing and on the Environmental Assessment, the Commission concludes that renewal of the license will not result in any significant environmental impacts.

#### Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As required by Section 102(2)(E) of NEPA (42 U.S.C.A. §4332(2)(E)), the staff has considered possible alternatives to the proposed action, including cessation of operation of the reactor, and has concluded that from the standpoint of environmental impact, there are no appropriate alternatives to the proposed action.

#### Agencies or Persons Consulted

The NRC staff obtained technical assistance from the Los Alamos National Laboratory in reviewing the licensee's application for renewal.

#### Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the Environmental Assessment, the staff concluded that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the Commission has determined not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed action.

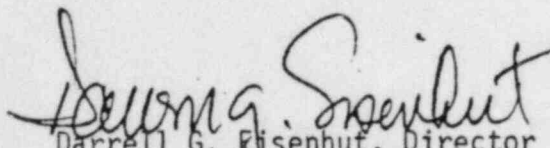
For further details with respect to this proposed action, see the application for license renewal dated May 23, 1980, as supplemented, the Environmental Assessment, and the Safety Evaluation Report prepared by the staff (NUREG-1043).

The Environmental Assessment is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, NW, Washington, D. C. 20555. A copy may be obtained upon request addressed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, ATTENTION: Director, Division of Licensing.

Copies of NUREG-1043 may be purchased by calling (301) 492-9530 or by writing to the Publication Services Section, Document Management Branch, Division of Technical Information and Document Control, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D. C. 20555; or purchased from the National Technical Information Service, Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 31 day of July, 1984.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

  
Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director  
Division of Licensing



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Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director  
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\*SEE PREVIOUS PAGE FOR CONCURRENCES (RE-TYPED 7/10/84)

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Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this  
FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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