

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
REGARDING TERMINATION OF FACILITY LICENSE NO. R-31
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
AGN-201 NUCLEAR RESEARCH REACTOR
DOCKET NO. 50-77

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an Order terminating Facility License No. R-31 for the Catholic University of America (the licensee) Aerojet-General Nucleonics (AGN-201) Nuclear Research Reactor located in Washington, District of Columbia, in accordance with the application dated February 6, 1992, as supplemented on June 2, 1995.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

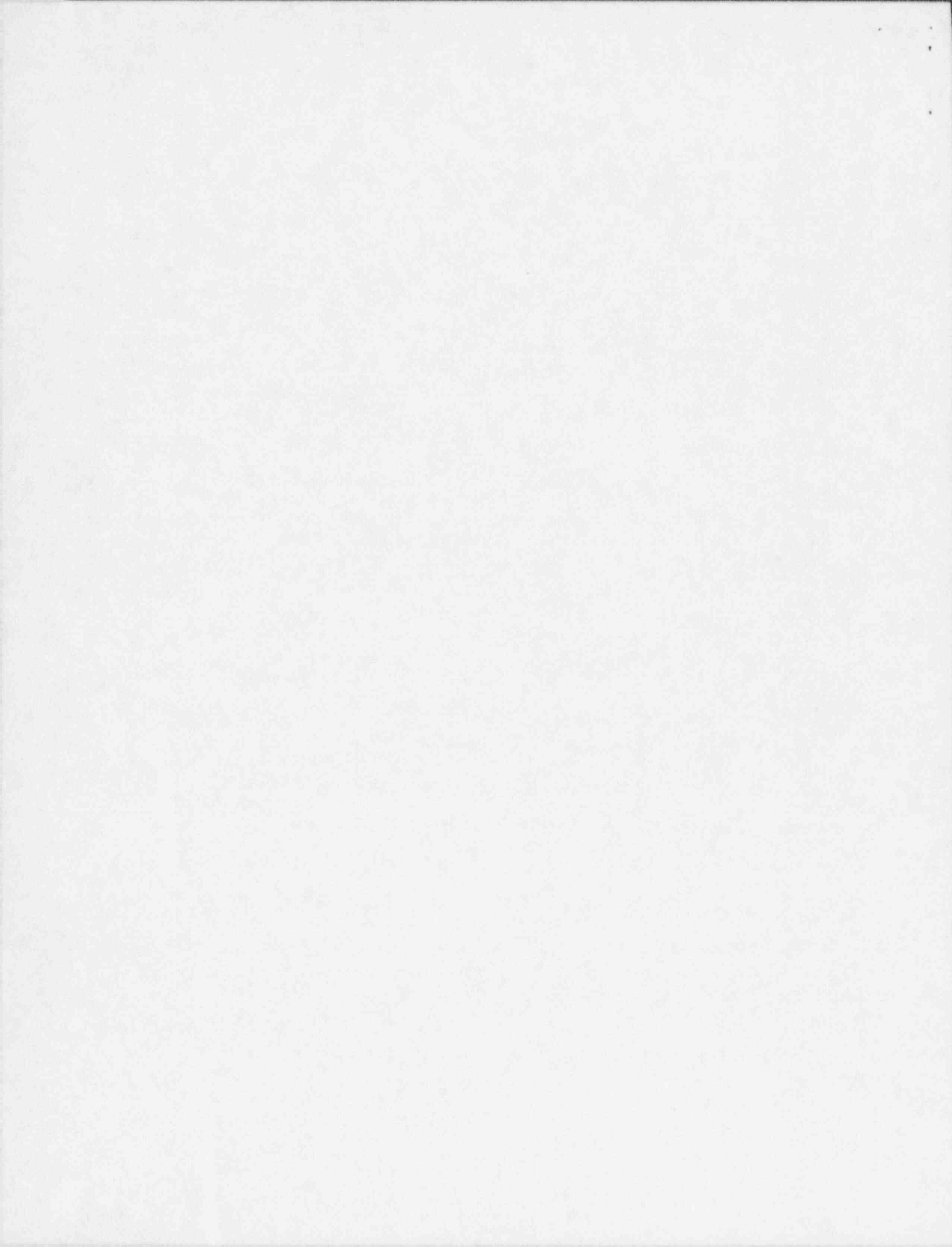
Identification of Proposed Action: The proposed action would authorize the licensee to decontaminate and dismantle its AGN-201 Nuclear Reactor Facility, and dispose of its component parts in accordance with the proposed decommissioning plan. Following an "Order Authorizing Decommission Plan and Authorizing Decommissioning of the Catholic University of America Research Reactor," dated September 24, 1992, (57 FR 45094) the licensee completed the dismantlement and submitted a final survey report on December 20, 1994, as supplemented on September 22, 1995. A NRC Region I inspector conducted a survey of the Facility on November 7-9, 1995, (Inspection Report No. 50-77/95-01). Region I, in a memorandum dated December 11, 1995, concluded that their inspection findings confirmed the data developed in the licensee final survey report. The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated February 6, 1992.

The Need for Proposed Action: The proposed action is to release the facility for unrestricted access and use, and Facility License No. R-31 must be terminated.

Environmental Impact of License Termination: The licensee indicates that the residual contamination levels comply with the criteria of Regulatory Guide 1.86 Table 1, for unrestricted release of the facility. The licensee also indicates that the radiological exposure at the facility is also less than 5 micro R/hr above background at one meter which has also been accepted by the NRC for unrestricted release of facilities. These measurements have been verified by the NRC Region I inspection. The NRC finds that since these criteria have been met there is no significant impact on the environment and the facility can be released for unrestricted use.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action: As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in environmental impacts and would deny release of the site for unrestricted use and require continuance of the facility license. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar. Since the reactor and component parts have been dismantled and disposed of in accordance with NRC regulations and guidelines, there is no viable alternative to termination of Facility License No. R-31.

Agencies and Persons Consulted: The NRC staff consulted with the Program Manager for the Pharmaceutical, Radiological and Medical Devices Control Division of the District of Columbia regarding the proposed action.



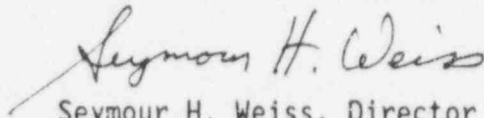
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the issuance of the Order 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 the proposed action.

For further details with respect to this proposed action, see the licensee's submittal on decommissioning the facility, dated February 6, 1992, as supplemented on June 2, 1995. These documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 6th day of March 1996.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Seymour H. Weiss".

Seymour H. Weiss, Director
Non-Power Reactor and Decommissioning
Project Directorate
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation