

March 25, 1996

Dr. Thomas L. Bauer
Assistant Director
Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory
Balcones Research Center
Building 159
Austin, Texas 78712

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dear Dr. Bauer:

We are continuing our review of your amendment request for Facility Operating License No. R-129 for the University of Texas TRIGA Research Reactor which you submitted on January 25, 1993, as supplemented on November 11, 1995. During our review of your amendment request, questions have arisen for which we require additional information and clarification. Please provide responses to the enclosed request for additional information within 30 days of the date of this letter. In accordance with 10 CFR 50.30(b), your response must be executed in a signed original under oath or affirmation. Following receipt of the additional information, we will continue our evaluation of your amendment request.

This requirement affects nine or fewer respondents and, therefore, is not subject to Office of Management and Budget review under P. L. 96-511.

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact me at (301) 415-1127.

Sincerely,
Original signed by:
Alexander Adams, Jr., Senior Project Manager
Non-Power Reactors and Decommissioning
Project Directorate
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-602

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alexander Adams, Jr.", is positioned above the typed name.

Alexander Adams, Jr., Senior Project Manager
Non-Power Reactors and Decommissioning
Project Directorate
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-602

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

University of Texas

Docket No. 50-602

cc:

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Austin, Texas 78712

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS TRIGA RESEARCH REACTOR

DOCKET NO. 50-602

1. These questions pertain to revisions to the Technical Specifications proposed in the attachment to your letter to the NRC dated November 11, 1995.
 - a) Specification 3.2.2, Reactor Control Systems; item (b) in the table states that there shall be four (4) operable interlocks in Manual, Automatic, and Square-wave Modes of operation, but the footnote seems to provide an exception to that requirement. It is not entirely clear what the exception does provide. It is requested that you review this table and propose revisions that eliminate such footnotes, and present clearly and concisely what interlocks are required in the various modes of operation. The bases may describe the actual functions of the interlocks.
 - b) Specification 3.2.2, bases; most of your documentation, including the current SAR, treat "Auto mode," "Manual mode," and "Square-wave mode" as distinct ways of operating the reactor, but in this basis both "auto" and "square-wave" are said to be special cases of "manual" mode. This description leads to ambiguity in interpretation. It is recommended that a "mode" of operation should be more of a general method of operation, to be distinguished from the actual manipulation of individual control rod switches. Please review and propose appropriate changes to this Basis.
2. Parts of your response to Question Number 4 of our request for additional information, dated August 2, 1994, are not clear.
 - a) Part (b) of your response mentions a "period increase" exceeding the limiting value. Please review, to determine if "period decrease" would be more appropriate.
 - b) Part (c) of your response mentions a "shorter period" limit. Please review, to determine if "longer period" would be more appropriate. Please make necessary changes, since responses to requests for additional information constitute part of the official documentation of a facility license.