



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

SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT

BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING ORDER TERMINATING FACILITY LICENSE NO. R-128

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH REACTOR

DOCKET NO. 50-208

Introduction

By letter dated March 27, 1985, Columbia University requested that the facility operating license for their 250 kw TRIGA Mark II research reactor be terminated. Although the reactor was licensed in 1977, it was never fueled or operated. Further, the University has no plans to operate the reactor within the foreseeable future.

Evaluation

The Columbia University Research Reactor has never been operated. Further, the reactor was never fueled nor was there ever any fuel at the site. Thus, no radioactive effluents were ever produced or released and there never was any radioactive contamination of the facility or any of its components.

The licensee has physically removed the control rod drives from the reactor, leaving the control rods permanently and fully inserted in the reactor core structure. The control wiring, between the reactor and the control room, has also been removed. These actions, taken together with the non-availability of fuel, assure the non-operability of the reactor.

This facility license termination does not involve a significant hazards consideration, because the action does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously evaluated, it does not involve a significant reduction in a safety margin, and does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

There is no residual radiation or radioactive contamination in this reactor facility; therefore, it meets the guideline values of Regulatory Guide 1.86. Accordingly, all requirements and criteria for terminating the license have been met by the licensee.

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Environmental Consideration

This amendment changes requirements with respect to the installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area, as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, there is no significant change in the types or significant increase in the amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, this action meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22 (c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of this order.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing considerations, the staff concludes that the proposed facility license termination can be made without undue risk to the health and safety of the public or operators, and without any significant impact on the environment.

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Dated: June 13, 1985