

Office of the President

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March 20, 2020

Mr. Ho Nieh
Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Nuclear Energy eXperimental Testing Laboratory
Subject: Notice of Intent to Submit License Application

NL-2020- 001

Dear Mr. Nieh:

Abilene Christian University (ACU) and our Nuclear Energy eXperimental Testing Laboratory (NEXT Lab) wishes to inform the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of our intent to submit an application for a Construction Permit and Operating License for a non-power Molten Salt Research Reactor (MSRRx) facility.

NEXT Lab is currently in the process of establishing a detailed licensing schedule; however, for planning purposes, it is our intent to submit the application in the third quarter of 2021 (July – September, 2021). We anticipate that the MSRRx will pursue licensing as a research reactor, in accordance with AEA Section 104(c) and 10 CFR 50.21(c). However, we will work with the Staff during the development of the license application to further identify and comply with the most applicable regulatory framework to protect the public health and safety and the environment. We will also structure the application to be consistent with the existing regulatory framework and the latest guidance for licensing non-power reactors.

We intend to arrange a drop-in meeting with the appropriate NRC Staff as soon as is feasible after the pandemic travel advisories are lifted. The purpose will be to discuss plans for the application and to engage the NRC Staff in early dialogue on the licensing requirements and the regulatory process. We also intend to gain understanding and consensus on certain topical areas related to licensing the NEXT Lab MSRRx technology and facility.

NEXT Lab looks forward to initiating communications and interactions with the NRC Staff on these important topics.

Thank you for your attention to this letter of intent. If you should have any questions or need more information, written communications related to the NEXT Lab project should be addressed as follows:

Dr. Rusty Towell
Director of NEXT Lab
ACU Box 27963
Abilene, TX 79699

email: rusty.towell@acu.edu
Office: 325-674-2034

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Schubert', is written over a horizontal line.

Phil Schubert, Ed.D.
President