



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 20, 2020

APPLICANT: Abilene Christian University

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 3, 2020, CLOSED MEETING WITH ABILENE
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY (EPID NOS. L-2020-LRM-0081 AND
L-2020-NFN-0000)

On November 3, 2020, a closed meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and representatives of Abilene Christian University (ACU) via webinar. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss security-related information regarding ACU's proposed molten salt research reactor (MSRR) project. The meeting notice and agenda, dated October 23, 2020, are available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at Accession No. ML20297A428. The ACU and NRC staff presentations used in the meeting are also available in ADAMS at Accession No. ML20309A797. A list of meeting attendees is provided as an enclosure to this summary.

ACU began the meeting by briefly summarizing its proposed MSRR project, including special nuclear material (SNM) that it may receive (from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)) and possess in conjunction with the project, and its licensing approach. ACU also provided an overview of the staffing and capabilities of the ACU campus and Abilene, Texas, police departments (the proposed MSRR would be located in Abilene, Texas, on or near the ACU campus). The NRC staff then presented information including Safeguards Information (SGI) protection program requirements and guidance and discussed the submission process. The NRC staff also discussed security-related regulations that could apply to ACU and presented additional potential security measures that could apply. These potential security measures would be site-specific and risk-informed based on the type and quantity of SNM that will be stored or used at ACU.

The NRC staff noted that, in addition to the regulations presented on the NRC staff's slides, ACU should consult Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 37, "Physical Protection of Category 1 and Category 2 Quantities of Radioactive Material," to determine if regulations in that part would apply to the proposed MSRR. The NRC staff and ACU discussed that a U.S. Department of Homeland Security vulnerability assessment related to the proposed MSRR would likely need to be conducted in accordance with the "Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Homeland Security Regarding Consultation Concerning Potential Vulnerabilities of the Location of Proposed New Utilization Facilities" (ADAMS Accession No. ML113550508). In response to a question from ACU regarding additional security measures that may be required by the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA; part of DOE) beyond NRC requirements, the NRC staff stated that ACU should consider contacting NNSA directly about these measures.

ACU stated that, before its submittal of a construction permit (CP) application for its proposed MSRR, it plans to submit an SGI protection program for NRC review. The NRC staff encouraged ACU to keep it up to date on the planned submittal date for this program.

Additionally, ACU stated that, once the NRC staff completes its review of ACU's SGI protection program, ACU plans to submit nominations for reviewing officials (for determining trustworthiness and reliability for access to SGI and access to the facility and SNM) to the NRC; the NRC staff encouraged ACU to plan on having at least two NRC-approved reviewing officials in place. The NRC staff and ACU also discussed the possibility of a follow-up closed meeting for additional discussion of security-related topics after the NRC staff completes its review of ACU's SGI protection program. ACU stated that it currently plans to submit a preliminary physical security plan (PSP) to the NRC ahead of its CP application, possibly as a "white paper" to facilitate future discussions with the NRC staff. ACU stated that it plans to submit a finalized version of a PSP with its operating license application.

Please direct any inquiries to me at 301-415-4067, or by electronic mail at

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/RA/

Edward M. Helvenston, Project Manager
Non-Power Production and Utilization
Facility Licensing Branch
Division of Advanced Reactors and Non-Power
Production and Utilization Facilities
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project/Docket No. 99902088

Enclosure:

As stated

cc: See next page

Abilene Christian University

Project/Docket No. 99902088

cc:

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Phil Schubert, Ed.D.
President
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Office of the President
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Test, Research and Training
Reactor Newsletter
Attention: Ms. Amber Johnson
Dept. of Materials Science and Engineering
University of Maryland
4418 Stadium Drive
College Park, MD 20742-2115

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CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY (EPID NO. L-2020-LRM-0081) DATED: NOVEMBER
20, 2020

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ADAMS Accession Nos.: ML20297A428 Mtg. Notice

ML20309A797 Mtg. Slides (pkg)

ML20309A799 (ACU)

ML20309A798 (NRC)

ML20317A093 Mtg. Summary

*via e-mail

NRC-001

OFFICE	NRR/DANU/UNPL/PM*	NRR/DANU/UNPL/LA*	NRR/DANU/UNPL/BC*	NRR/DANU/UNPL/PM*
NAME	EHelvenston	NParker	GCasto	EHelvenston
DATE	11/16/2020	11/16/2020	11/20/2020	11/20/2020

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

LIST OF ATTENDEES

NOVEMBER 3, 2020, CLOSED MEETING WITH ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

2:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Greg Casto	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Molly-Kate Gavello	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Edward Helvenston	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Gerard Jackson	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Steve Lynch	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Elizabeth Reed	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Bernard Stapleton	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Charles Teal	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Alexander Adams	Abilene Christian University
Tim Head	Abilene Christian University
Tony Hill	Abilene Christian University
Rusty Towell	Abilene Christian University
Steve Vanderslice	Abilene Christian University
Jimmy Ellison	Abilene Christian University (Police Department)
William Charlton	University of Texas at Austin
Lawrence Hall	University of Texas at Austin
Tracy Tipping	University of Texas at Austin
Paul Whaley	University of Texas at Austin

Enclosure