



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

February 19, 2021

Mr. John P. Foster, Director  
of Reactor Operations  
Nuclear Reactor Laboratory  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
138 Albany Street, MS NW12-116B  
Cambridge, MA 02139

SUBJECT: MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY – ACCEPTANCE OF THE  
APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE AMENDMENT RE: CHANGE TO  
SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENT FREQUENCY DURING REACTOR  
SHUTDOWN (EPID L-2020-LLA-0149)

Dear Mr. Foster:

By letter dated June 18, 2020 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML20178A159), as supplemented by letter dated January 29, 2021 (ADAMS Accession No. ML21035A258), Massachusetts Institute of Technology applied for an amendment to Facility Operating License No. R-37 for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Research Reactor. The license amendment request (LAR) proposes a change to the surveillance requirement frequency allowing the surveillance to be deferred while the reactor is shutdown.

Consistent with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50.90, "Application for amendment of license, construction permit, or early site permit," an application to amend the license (including the technical specifications) must fully describe the changes desired and follow, as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. The requirements in 10 CFR Section 50.34, "Contents of applications; technical information," cover the technical information to be included in the application and stipulate that it addresses design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff performed an acceptance review of the LAR and concluded that it includes sufficient information for the NRC staff to begin its detailed technical review. Notwithstanding the acceptance review, the NRC staff may require additional information to complete the detailed technical review. If needed, the NRC staff will request this information by separate correspondence within approximately 90 days of the date of this letter.

Based on the acceptance review, the NRC staff expects to complete its review and make a final determination on the LAR by February 10, 2022. This date could change due to several factors, including requests for additional information, unanticipated changes to the scope of the review, unsolicited supplements to the LAR, and others. If the forecasted date changes, the NRC staff will notify you in writing of the new date and an explanation of the reason for the change.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-3936, or by electronic mail at [Patrick.Boyle@nrc.gov](mailto:Patrick.Boyle@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

Patrick G. Boyle, 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

Docket No. 50-020  
License No. R-37

cc: See next page

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Docket No. 50-020

cc:

City Manager  
City Hall  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Department of Environmental Protection  
One Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Mr. Jack Priest, Director  
Radiation Control Program  
Department of Public Health  
529 Main Street  
Schrafft Center, Suite 1M2A  
Charlestown, MA 02129

Ms. Samantha Phillips, Director  
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency  
400 Worcester Road  
Framingham, MA 01702-5399

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

Mr. Marshall B. Wade, Interim  
Reactor Superintendent  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Nuclear Reactor Laboratory  
Research Reactor  
138 Albany Street, MS NW12-116B  
Cambridge, MA 02139

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**ADAMS Accession No. ML21036A085****NRR-106**

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