



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

February 25, 2021

Mr. Walter Dale Tomlinson  
Reactor Facility Director  
Armed Forces Radiobiology  
Research Institute  
4555 South Palmer Road, Building 42  
Bethesda, MD 20889-5648

SUBJECT: ARMED FORCES RADIOBIOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE – ACCEPTANCE  
OF THE APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE AMENDMENT RE: DIGITAL  
INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL UPGRADE (EPID L-2020-NFA-0012)

Dear Mr. Tomlinson:

By letter dated November 10, 2020 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML20318A339), as supplemented by letter(s) dated February 5, 2021, and February 11, 2021 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML21036A297, ML21042B841, respectively), Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI) applied for an amendment to Facility Operating License No. R-84 for the AFRRI TRIGA-Mark F tank-type nuclear reactor facility. The license amendment request (LAR) proposes to replace and upgrade of the instrumentation and control (I&C) systems for the reactor. In addition, AFRRI submitted modifications to its technical specifications (TSs) related to the upgrade of the I&C systems.

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

Based on the acceptance review the NRC staff expects to complete its review and make a final determination on the LAR by February 24, 2023. 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) 415-3398, or by electronic mail at [Cindy.Montgomery@nrc.gov](mailto:Cindy.Montgomery@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

Cynthia K.  
Montgomery

 Digitally signed by Cynthia K.  
Montgomery  
Date: 2021.02.25 16:21:09 -05'00'

Cindy Montgomery, 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. 50-170  
License No. R-84

cc: See next page

Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute

Docket No 50-170

cc:

Director, Maryland Office of Planning  
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Baltimore, MD 21201

Montgomery County Executive  
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Director  
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Test, Research and Training  
Reactor Newsletter  
Attention: Ms. Amber Johnson  
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Manager  
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Colonel Mohammad Naeem, Director  
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DATED: February 25, 2021

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**ADAMS Accession No. ML21053A267****NRR-106**

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<b>NAME</b>	CMontgomery	NParker	GCasto	CMontgomery
<b>DATE</b>	2/19/2021	2/24/2021	2/24/2021	2/25/2021

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