



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

July 13, 2021

Dr. Rusty Towell  
Director of NEXT Lab  
Abilene Christian University  
ACU Box 28208  
Abilene, TX 79699

SUBJECT: ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY – ASSIGNMENT OF PROJECT MANAGER  
(EPID NO. L-2020-NFN-0000)

Dear Dr. Towell:

By letter dated March 20, 2020 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML20241A070), Abilene Christian University (ACU) informed the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of its intent to submit an application for a construction permit (CP) and operating license (OL) for a non-power molten salt research reactor (MSRR). By letter dated July 24, 2020 (ADAMS Accession No. ML20241A071), ACU provided the NRC with a Regulatory Engagement Plan (REP) to present aspects of its anticipated pre-application interactions with the NRC staff prior to its submission of a CP application. In its REP, ACU stated that it planned to submit its CP and OL applications separately. By letter dated September 16, 2020 (ADAMS Accession No. ML20244A275), the NRC staff assigned ACU Project Number (No). 99902088 to facilitate ACU's pre-application interactions.

This letter is to inform ACU of the assignment of an NRC licensing Project Manager (PM) to support future ACU pre-application interactions and licensing activities. In order to support an efficient review of future ACU licensing submittals, and to leverage NRC experience with licensing reviews involving novel reactor designs, the NRC staff has determined that the Advanced Reactor Licensing Branch (UARL), within the Division of Advanced Reactors and Non-Power Production and Utilization Facilities (DANU), in the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, will have primary project management responsibility for ACU. Accordingly, effective June 24, 2021, Mr. Richard Rivera of UARL was assigned as the NRC's licensing PM for ACU. Going forward, Mr. Rivera will be the primary PM and NRC point-of-contact for ACU regarding any licensing activities. Mr. Rivera may be reached at (301) 415-7190, or via e-mail at [Richard.Rivera@nrc.gov](mailto:Richard.Rivera@nrc.gov).

Although UARL will take primary project management responsibility for ACU, the Non-Power Production and Utilization Facility Licensing Branch (UNPL) within DANU will continue to provide appropriate support for ACU licensing activities, to leverage NRC experience with non-power reactor licensing, and associated regulations, guidance, and precedents. Accordingly, Mr. Edward Helvenston of UNPL will continue to support ACU licensing activities and has been assigned as the primary UNPL resource for reviews related to ACU.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 50.4, "Written communications," all correspondence should be sent to: ATTN: Document Control Desk, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. An electronic courtesy copy may be provided to your PM at the e-mail address provided.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-2313, or via e-mail at William.Kennedy@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

William (Duke) Kennedy, Acting Chief  
Advanced Reactor Licensing Branch  
Division of Advanced Reactors and Non-Power  
Production and Utilization Facilities  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 99902088

cc:

Phil Schubert, Ed.D.  
President  
Abilene Christian University  
Office of the President  
206 Hardin Administration Building  
ACU Box 29100  
Abilene, TX 79699-9100

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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(EPID NO. L-2020-NFN-0000) DATED: July 13, 2021

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**ADAMS Accession No.: ML21187A221**

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<b>NAME</b>	RRivera	EHelvenston	SLent
<b>DATE</b>	7/9/2021	7/12/2021	7/13/2021
<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>NRR/DANU/UNPL/BC</b>	<b>NRR/DANU/UARL/BC(A)</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	JBorromeo	WKennedy	
<b>DATE</b>	7/13/2021	7/13/2021	

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