

## SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT

DOCKET NO.: 70-1374

LICENSE NO.: SNM-1373

LICENSEE: Idaho State University

SUBJECT: IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY, AMENDMENT 9: APPROVAL OF UPDATED ROSTER OF UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS – ENTERPRISE PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER L-2022-NFA-0003

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

By letter dated March 24, 2022 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession No. ML22091A296), Idaho State University (ISU) requested the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to amend Special Nuclear Materials License Number 1373 (SNM-1373) to update their university officials' roster. Specifically, the ISU requests the addition of Dr. Chad Pope as the Chair of the Department of Nuclear Engineering. In its request, the ISU included Dr. Pope's curriculum vitae and requested the NRC staff to evaluate Dr. Pope's qualifications against the minimum qualifications required by ISU and outlined in Attachment IV of its license renewal application (LRA) dated December 6, 2021 (ADAMS Accession No. ML21351A166).

### **II. REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

The regulations in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Paragraph 70.23(a) state that an application for a license will be approved if the Commission determines, in part, that the applicant is qualified by reason of training and experience to use licensed material for the purpose requested.

### **III. DISCUSSION**

The NRC staff reviewed the training and experience of Dr. Pope against the minimum qualification requirements listed in the LRA and determined that Dr. Pope meets the requirements specified by ISU for the Department of Nuclear Engineering. Specifically, the NRC staff makes the following findings:

- A. Attachment IV of ISU's December 6, 2021, LRA (ADAMS Accession No. ML21351A166) states that the minimum qualifications for the Chair of the Department of Nuclear Engineering Reactor Supervisor are: (1) PhD or equivalent education; and, (2) at least 2 years of experience related to nuclear reactor operations (need not have power reactor experience). The NRC staff noted that Dr. Pope received a PhD in Nuclear Science and Engineering from the ISU in 2011. He has over 2 years of experience related to nuclear reactor operations including the following:
  1. Nuclear Safety & Criticality Safety Engineer, Idaho National Laboratory (2005 - 2013), serving as the Technical Lead for criticality safety at the Materials and Fuels

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Complex (2005 - 2007), and providing nuclear criticality safety technical leadership for fissile material operations.

2. Consultant at the Savannah River Site (2018 - 2021), participating in nuclear safety improvement activities, including nuclear facility chemical hazards, control strategy, and nuclear criticality safety initiatives.
3. Consultant at TerraPower (2021 to present), participating in nuclear safety activities supporting the Natrium reactor project.

Dr. Pope is currently a Professor at ISU, holding this position since 2013. As a professor, he teaches upper division and graduate courses in nuclear engineering and directs a research program focusing on risk analysis and nuclear safety. He also serves as the advisor for graduate students. Dr. Pope was selected as the Nuclear Engineering Department Chair in January 2016 and currently holds this position. Based on this information, the staff finds that Dr. Pope meets the ISU qualifications for member of ISU's SNM-1373 Officials Roster. Therefore, his appointment is approved.

Officials Roster for the ISU SNM-1373 Activities

After including Dr. Chad Pope, the ISU Officials' Roster for the SNM-1373 license is now as follows:

**President of the University**

Kevin Satterlee, J.D.

**Vice President for Research (Responsible University Officer)**

Donna Lybecker, Ph.D.

**Chair of the Department of Nuclear Engineering**

Chad Pope, Ph.D.

**Chairperson of the Reactor Safety Committee**

Kermit Bunde, P.E.

**Radiation Safety Officer**

Mason Jaussi, M.S.

**Reactor Administrator and Acting Reactor Supervisor**

Mary Lou Dunzik-Gougar, Ph.D.

**Reactor Supervisor in Training**

Jonathan Scott

The NRC staff finds that the ISU officials on the roster provide reasonable assurance that the health, safety, and environmental protection functions will continue to be effective.

**III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

A proposed action is excluded from an environmental review under 10 CFR 51.22(c)(14)(v) if it is an amendment to a license issued pursuant to 10 CFR Part 70 authorizing the use of radioactive materials for research and development and for educational purposes. The changes to Attachment I of ISU's application meet this requirement.

The NRC staff determined that the proposed action does not adversely impact public health and safety or the environment and is categorically excluded from the requirement to conduct an environmental review. Therefore, in accordance with 10 CFR 51.22(c)(14)(v), neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is warranted for this action.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

As stated above, the NRC staff finds that Dr. Pope meets the ISU qualification requirements for member of the Roster of Officials for the SNM-1373 and is qualified by reason of education and experience to oversee licensed activities and use of SNM for the education, research, and training activities authorized by the license. The NRC staff finds that the proposed changes to the University Officials Roster are acceptable and, therefore, recommends that ISU's request be approved.

**V. PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTOR**

Osiris Siurano-Perez, NMSS