



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

April 14, 2022

Ms. Maie' Pope
Executive Director
Spotlight Air Environmental
1807 S. Neil St.
Champaign, IL 61820

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LETTER OPPOSING UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN TEST REACTOR FACILITY PROJECT

Dear Ms. Pope:

Thank you for your letter dated March 1, 2022 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML22077A009) regarding the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's (UIUC) plans to locate a test reactor at its campus. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff considers public involvement in the agency's activities to be a cornerstone of openness and transparency in the fulfillment of its mission. Our regulatory process provides a variety of opportunities for members of the public to be heard and involved in the licensing process. For example, we announce upcoming public meetings on the NRC's web site at <https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg>. On October 27, 2021, the NRC staff held a public meeting to discuss UIUC's draft regulatory engagement plan. During the meeting, the NRC staff discussed its roles in reviewing a construction permit application and UIUC discussed the project overview, preliminary information about the proposed location for the reactor, environmental review, technology overview, and regulatory strategy. You can find the NRC staff's presentation at this link, [NRC Slides - October 27, 2021 UIUC Public Meeting](#), or in the NRC's ADAMS at Accession No. ML21299A320. UIUC's presentation is available at this link, [University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Slides - October 27, 2021 Public Meeting](#), or in ADAMS at Accession No. ML21301A225. The NRC staff's meeting summary is available at this link, [October 27, 2021 Meeting Summary - UIUC Draft Regulatory Engagement Plan](#), or in ADAMS at Accession No. ML21321A293.

I want to emphasize that UIUC has not submitted an application for the proposed test reactor and the project is in the "pre-application" stage in terms of interactions between UIUC and the NRC staff. If UIUC submits a construction permit application, the NRC staff would review the application to ensure that it meets the regulations in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities." Guidance for the NRC staff's review of a testing facility or test reactor application is in NUREG-1537, Part 2, "Guidelines for Preparing and Reviewing Applications for the Licensing of Non-Power Reactors: Standard Review Plan and Acceptance Criteria." You can get the guidance on the NRC web page at <https://www.nrc.gov/reactors/research-test-reactors/regs-guides-comm.html> or in ADAMS at Accession No. ML042430048. The guidance covers test reactor siting, including, "Geography and Demography," and "Nearby Industrial, Transportation, and Military Facilities." In addition, the NRC staff's environmental review under the National Environmental

Policy Act, or NEPA, will include an environmental justice review that would examine potential disproportionate impacts on minority and low-income communities. If the NRC staff accepts an application for a UIUC reactor facility for review, we would provide opportunities for public involvement in hearings in accordance with the NRC's regulations in 10 CFR Part 2, "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure." Our regulation, 10 CFR 50.58, "Hearings and Report of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards," also requires the Commission to hold a hearing on a construction permit application after publication of at least 30-days notice in the *Federal Register*. Documents related to UIUC's interactions with the NRC are available to the public in ADAMS (<https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>) and can be located using the ADAMS Advanced Search feature and selecting "Docket Number" under Property and "is equal to" under Operator, and entering "99902094" under Value.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Adrian Muñiz at (301) 415-4093 or via e-mail at Adrian.Muniz@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Kennedy, William
on 04/14/22

William B. 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.: 99902094

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CHAMPAIGN TEST REACTOR FACILITY PROJECT DATED: APRIL 14, 2022

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