



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

June 27, 2022

Dr. Alan Cebula
Nuclear Reactor Facility Manager
Kansas State University
112 Ward Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506-5204

SUBJECT: KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY – RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND TO A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR THE USE OF 12 PERCENT BY WEIGHT URANIUM FUEL ELEMENTS (EPID NO. L-2019-LLA-0092)

Dear Dr. Cebula:

By letter dated April 9, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML12109A063), as supplemented by letters dated April 28, 2014; October 5, 2016; May 2, 2017; September 23, 2017; and November 30, 2018 (ML16200A317, ML16291A498, ML17139C979, ML17319A305, and ML18347A209, respectively), Kansas State University (KSU) applied for an amendment to Facility Operating License No. R-88 for the KSU Nuclear Reactor Facility. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) approval of the license amendment request (LAR) would allow KSU to add up to four fuel elements that are 12 percent by weight uranium, to its reactor core.

On June 5, 2019 (ML19128A342), the NRC staff sent KSU a letter enclosing a request for additional information (RAI) identifying additional information needed for the NRC staff to continue its review of KSU's LAR. The NRC staff's June 5, 2019, letter requested that KSU provide responses to the RAIs by October 7, 2019. Additionally, based on this RAI response date, the NRC staff provided KSU with an estimated LAR review completion date of December 31, 2020.

By letters dated October 7, 2019; January 7, 2020; March 9, 2020; June 5, 2020; September 8, 2020; December 8, 2020; March 8, 2021; and June 9, 2021 (ML19295D727, ML20013F680, ML20083G194, ML20171A392, ML20269A247, ML20366A046, ML21105A485, and ML21188A209, respectively), KSU requested extensions to respond to the NRC staff's June 5, 2019, RAI. The NRC staff granted KSU's extension requests by letters dated October 24, 2019; January 13, 2020; March 30, 2020; June 23, 2020; October 5, 2020; January 26, 2021; April 15, 2021; and July 8, 2021 (ML19290H593, ML20008D352, ML20070H674, ML20167A306, ML20253A235, ML21013A540, ML21070A010, and ML21166A333, respectively). In its letter dated July 8, 2021, the NRC staff accepted KSU's June 9, 2021, extension request such that the new RAI response date would be June 9, 2022.

By letter dated May 27, 2022 (ML22172A010), KSU requested a further extension until February 9, 2023, to respond to the RAI dated June 5, 2019. KSU stated that due to delays in funding for external assistance with neutronics benchmarking, the completion of neutronics

analyses supporting the LAR was delayed. KSU stated that the additional time is needed to allow the neutronics model to be completed and input into its thermal-hydraulic analysis, such that it can provide complete responses to the RAI.

Additionally, in its letter dated May 27, 2022, KSU confirmed that the administrative operating restrictions (discussed in its letter dated October 7, 2019, and acknowledged in the NRC staff's letter dated October 24, 2019) continue to remain in place, and KSU will provide advance notification to the NRC if KSU plans to change the restrictions prior to completion of the LAR review.

During a teleconference held on April 19, 2022, KSU and the NRC staff discussed KSU's progress in performing analyses supporting the LAR and its response to the RAI dated June 5, 2019. The NRC staff encourages KSU to continue to keep the NRC staff updated on its progress in responding to the RAI. The NRC staff also encourages KSU to contact the NRC staff to discuss any questions related to the RAI. Additionally, the NRC staff could plan to conduct a regulatory audit related to the LAR before and/or after KSU submits its RAI response, to support efficient completion of the LAR review.

The NRC staff accepts KSU's extension request dated May 27, 2022. Based on the new RAI response date of February 9, 2023, the NRC staff is providing a revised date of April 30, 2024, by which it expects to complete its review and make a final determination on the LAR. This date could change due to several factors including a need for further RAIs, unanticipated changes to the scope of the review, unsolicited supplements to the application for amendment, 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 or need additional time to respond to the NRC staff's original request dated June 5, 2019, please contact me at 301-415-4067, or via e-mail at Edward.Helvenston@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Helvenston, Edward
on 06/27/22

Edward M. Helvenston, 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. 50-188
License No. R-88

cc: See next page

Kansas State University

Docket No. 50-188

cc:

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DATE	06/06/2022	06/09/2022	06/14/2022	06/27/2022

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