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NRC Makes Available Construction Permit for Abilene Christian University Research Reactor

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has received a construction permit application from Abilene Christian University to build a Molten Salt Research Reactor on the university's campus in Abilene, Texas. The [application](#), with proprietary information removed, is now available for public review on the NRC website.

ACU's application, submitted on Aug. 15, includes both a preliminary safety analysis report and an environmental report for the proposed MSRR. The one-megawatt, non-power reactor would use molten salts, one as fuel and another to cool the reactor core. The facility would provide a platform to research molten-salt technology, as well as educational opportunities in nuclear science and engineering. If the NRC issues the construction permit and the facility is built, ACU will have to submit a separate application for an operating license in the future.

The NRC staff is reviewing the construction permit application to determine if it is complete and acceptable for processing. If the application is determined to be sufficient, the staff will docket it and start a detailed technical review. At that point, the NRC will also publish a notice of opportunity to request an adjudicatory hearing before the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Information regarding ACU's proposed facility is available on the [NRC website](#).