



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

September 12, 2022

LICENSEE: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS – AUSTIN

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF AUGUST 10, 2022, MEETING WITH UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS – AUSTIN (EPID NO. L-2017-RNW-0032)

On August 10, 2022, a Category 1 public meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and representatives of the University of Texas – Austin (UTA), Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory (NETL) research reactor. The meeting was conducted virtually to discuss the proposed changes to the NETL research reactor instrumentation and control systems. The meeting notice and agenda, dated July 1, 2022, are available in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System at ML22182A410. The UTA presentation used in the meeting is also available at ML22252A157. A list of meeting attendees is provided as an enclosure to this summary.

During the meeting, UTA staff discussed the planned upgrades to the control console, using the presentation provided above. UTA staff indicated the computer code for the reactor will change from QNX to LYNX (slide 7). UTA staff also discussed the planned upgrade of the new nuclear power monitoring detectors, NLW-1000, and noted some concerns with signal noise during operation at other facilities (slide 8). The vendor of the console replacement, Plantation Productions, LLC, attended the meeting, and provided reassurance that those instances isolated and not an endemic problem for the NLW-1000. The representative for Plantation Productions, LLC, indicated that the replacement software will most likely be very similar to the replacement performed at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (implemented via License Amendment No. 26 to Renewed Facility Operating License No. R-84, ML22131A373).

The UTA staff described a current issue dealing with time delays between the nuclear instrumentation and the console computer resulting in difficulties operating near full power in automatic mode (slide 11), which UTA plan to resolve with the console upgrade. UTA staff also discussed the proposed technical specification changes involving the number of nuclear channels, and plans on changing to a scram logic using 2 out of the 4 detectors, so that if one detector needs to be bypassed during operation, the reactor can continue to operate in a 2 out of 3 mode (slide 12). UTA staff also described the project phases (slide 14), which include removing the instrumented fuel element requirement and scram, and the need for traceability for the software. The NRC staff discussed the need for effective quality assurance testing. Plantation Productions, LLC, indicated that the software would be similar to software already used in other domestic research reactors (slide 17). Finally, UTA staff discussed changes to the proposed technical specifications and the project timeline, estimated to be about 3 years. Submittal of the license amendment is planned for April 2024.

No comments from the public were received. The meeting adjourned at 2:21 pm Eastern Daylight Time.

Please direct any inquiries to me at 301-415-0893, or Geoffrey.Wertz@nrc.gov.



Signed by Wertz, Geoffrey
on 09/12/22

Geoffrey A. Wertz, 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. 50-602
License No. R-129

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: w/enclosure

cc:

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AUSTIN (EPID NO. L-2017-RNW-0032)
DATED: SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

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ADAMS Accession Nos.:

ML22182A410 Public Meeting Notice

ML22252A157 Public Meeting Presentation

ML22252A175 Public Meeting Summary

NRC-001

OFFICE	NRR/DANU/PM	NRR/DANU/LA	NRR/DANU/BC	NRR/DANU/PM
NAME	GWertz	NParker	JBorromeo	GWertz
DATE	9/9/2022	9/12/2022	9/12/2022	9/12/2022

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

LIST OF ATTENDEES

AUGUST 10, 2022, MEETING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS – AUSTIN

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Geoffrey Wertz	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Justin Hudson	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Patrick Boyle	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Duane Hardesty	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Joshua Borrromeo	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Cindy Montgomery	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Rossnyev Alvarado	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Joseph Ashcraft	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Tracy Tipping	University of Texas – Austin
William Charlton	University of Texas – Austin
Paul Whaley	University of Texas – Austin
Derek Hass	University of Texas – Austin
Kevin Clarno	University of Texas – Austin
Randy Hyde	Plantation Productions, LLC.
Ryan David Brownfield	Public
Steven Biegalski	Public
Pavel Tsvetkov	Public

Enclosure