

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH REQUALIFICATION EXEMPTION DUE TO POOL LEAK
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, UNIT 1
DOCKET NO. 05000407
ISSUE DATE: 01/31/2025

Background

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is continuing its review of the University of Utah TRIGA Nuclear Reactor (UUTR) requested exemption by application dated June 17, 2024 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML24183A173), as supplemented by letters dated September 5 and December 13, 2024 (ML24250A104 and ML24349A003, respectively). The application requests exemptions from select requirements of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 55, "Operators' Licenses," for two licensed senior reactor operators in order to continue maintenance activities involving fuel handling and to return the facility to normal operations. The NRC staff requires the following additional information to continue its review of the exemption request. We request you provide responses no later than February 21, 2025.

Question 1a

Supplement section 3.b.2 says: *Description of the "special refresher training" activities and objectives – Power manipulations at a similar research reactor such Reed Research Reactor (RRR). These manipulations will involve Andrew Allison and Edward Goodell performing a reactor startup, power range manipulations greater than 30kW, and shutdown.*

- NRC requests UUTR confirm RRR agrees to utilization of its facility and licensed operators to meet the special refresher training requirements.

Question 1b

- NRC requests UUTR confirm operating power levels at the selected facility will be at or as near as possible to 100 kW (full licensed reactor power at UUTR) and that reactivity manipulations at selected facility will be IAW 10 CFR 55.59(c)(3)(i). NRC requests facility provide information on number of power manipulations to be performed.

Question 2

Supplement section 4.c states: *Justification describing why the Reed College reactor facility (or the Oregon State University reactor facility as an alternate to Reed College) are suitable for providing training of operators licensed at the Utah reactor facility. Include discussion on a comparison of the alternate reactor facilities with the University of Utah that supports the appropriateness for the specified training activity. Comparisons should address reactor design, console design and reactivity response, etc.*

- NRC requests UUTR provide evidence for Oregon State University as a comparable facility to UUTR.

Question 3

Supplement section 4.c states: *Of note, to better simulate UUTR reactor, UUTR operators will not use the automatic control option of RRR for their **operating examination**.* Supplement section 5. states: *The items in the plan that cannot be completed at the facility, such as control manipulations, would be accomplished at RRR to satisfy the **operating test requalification** requirements of 10 CFR 55.45(a)(2), (5), and (6).* Additionally, Supplement section 2. states: *Andrew Allison and Edward Goodell intend to perform their annual operating exams after successful completion of all restoration maintenance and prior to the requested 1 expiration date of December 31st, 2025.*

- It is the staff's understanding that RRR will be used for special refresher training and the annual operating exams will be completed after maintenance and restart of UUTR reactor. NRC requests confirmation that RRR will only be used for special refresher training and the annual operating exams will be performed at UUTR.

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