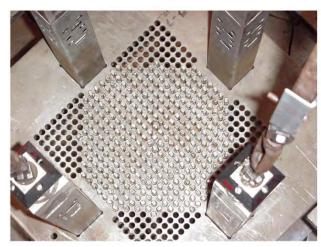
# Lessons Learned from Licensing of Rensselaer **Reactor Critical Facility** March 27, 2012 **Sastry Sreepada** Director Walthousen Reactor Critical Facility **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**

#### **Rensselaer Reactor Critical Facility**

- **Characteristics:**
- Power: 100 W,
- Negligible burn-up.
- Open reactor tank
- SPERT F-1 Fuel Pins



## **History of Renewals**

	Submitted	RAIs	Date Licensed
<b>Original -HEU</b>			July 20, 1965
Renewal/ HEU			June 19, 1969
Renewal  HEU	May 14, 1979	One	<b>December 2,</b> 1983
HEU/LEU	<b>October 3, 1986</b>	One	August 1987
Recent Renewal	November 19, 2002	Nine	June 27, 2011

### What Worked Well

- The initial submittals for the last 3 renewals/amendments were prepared under the same director
- The submittals were prepared by experienced part time/adjuncts with active full time nuclear jobs in industry
- Bulk of the submittal was based on previous license with material/methods updated

#### What Worked Well

- Time from first Request for Additional Information to renewal is about 3 years.
- Direct telephone contacts between the director, operations supervisor and the NRC project manager

#### What Didn't work well

- Substantial turn over of people during the renewal process (5 directors, 5 operations supervisors, 5 Nuclear Safety Review board chairmen, 3 Radiation safety officers)
- First Request for Additional Information was almost 6 years after the submittal.

#### What Didn't work well

- Difficult to be on the same page with constant change in personnel
- This situation could not be changed by face to face contact

# Where did we spend Most of the time

- In decreasing order major time was spent on
  - **1. Technical Specifications**
  - 2. Safety Analysis
  - 3. Other sections
- Most revisions in Technical Specifications were related to terminology, clarifications and editorials.

#### **Lessons Learned**

- It is necessary to have continuity of personnel throughout the process
- Some documentation of discussions with the project manager, in the absence of face to face meetings when staff changes occur could have helped somewhat.

#### **Beneficial Outcomes**

- The documents and methods have been updated and are in editable formats for any future changes.
- The student design projects can rely on the new documentation
- We should strive to increase the participation of full time faculty, due to the attrition in the past and present