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September 11, 2003

Mr. Alexander Adams, Jr.
Senior Project Manager
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop 012-G13
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

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Subject: Appointment of Dr. David Moncton as MIT Nuclear Reactor
Laboratory Director

Dear Mr. Adams:

I am writing to confirm our telephone conversation of Tuesday to advise the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that I have been able to recruit Dr. David Moncton to serve as Director of the Nuclear Reactor Laboratory. Dr. Moncton's appointment will be effective January 1, 2004, with an earlier effective date, possibly September 22, 2003, if the necessary arrangements can be made for him to spend a significant amount of time in this role earlier.

Dr. Moncton is an Adjunct Professor in MIT's Physics Department, and has the background for the research leadership role that is necessary to drive the NRL's program toward a larger scale funding base and user facility operation. He has worked in large user-facility development and has broad experience in laboratory facility management, including the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory and the Spallation Neutron Source in Oak Ridge. He has been a user of nuclear reactors in his research endeavors. Dr. Moncton is a graduate of the MIT Physics Department and a student of Clifford Shull. He served for five years on MIT's Nuclear Engineering Department Corporation Visiting Committee. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and has been recognized by the Department of Energy and Sigma Xi for his contributions to the community through the construction of the Advanced Photon Source.

Dr. Moncton's appointment will allow Dr. John Bernard, who has been serving as Acting Director and then Director of the NRL since Professor Otto Harling's term, as well as serving as

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Director of Reactor Operations, to return full time to the position of Director of Reactor Operations. Although the prior arrangement was consistent with MIT's license, having different people in the positions of Director of the NRL and Director of Reactor Operations will be more consistent with the original intent of that organizational arrangement.

As we are poised to embark on a new phase for the Nuclear Reactor Laboratory as a national user facility, we are fortunate to have this opportunity to match Dr. Moncton's expertise in facility management and research with the NRL staff experience in nuclear reactor operation. To confirm my response to your inquiry in our call, Dr. Moncton will be playing an increasing role in operations as we develop a user community; however, he and Dr. Bernard will ensure that the lines of communication with the NRC are clear and effective.

I hope that you and Tom Dragoun will feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Alice P. Gast

Robert T. Haslam Professor of Chemical
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Vice President for Research and Associate Provost

Courtesy copy: NRC Document Control Desk

Cc: Mr. Thomas Dragoun, NRC
Dr. David Moncton
Dr. John A. Bernard