

December 2, 2003

Dr. Nolan E. Hertel, Director
Neely Nuclear Research Center
Georgia Institute of Technology
900 Atlantic Drive
Atlanta, GA 30332-0425

SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. R-97 FOR THE
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH REACTOR
(TAC NO. MB8232)

Dear Dr. Hertel:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has reviewed Georgia Institute of Technology's (GT) request dated June 14, 2002, to terminate Facility Operating License No. R-97 for the GT Research Reactor (GTRR). Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.82(b)(6), the NRC staff has concluded that the terminal radiation survey and associated documentation demonstrate that the decommissioning has been performed and that the facility and site meet the criteria for release in accordance with the NRC-approved GTRR Decommissioning Plan, June 1998.

The NRC completed its review of the GTRR Final Status Survey Report dated June 2002, which was submitted to NRC by letter dated June 14, 2002. The report documented the level of residual radioactivity remaining at the facility and stated that compliance with the criteria as approved in the NRC-approved decommissioning plan has been demonstrated.

On the basis of the decommissioning activities conducted by GT, the NRC's review of your final status survey report, the results of NRC inspections conducted at the GTRR, and the results of NRC confirmatory surveys, the NRC concludes that the decommissioning process is complete and the facility and site are suitable to be released for unrestricted use. Therefore, Facility Operating License No. R-97 is hereby terminated.

In connection with the license termination, we are enclosing two copies of Amendment No. 15 to Indemnity Agreement No. E-30. Please sign and return one copy to this office.

Dr. N. E. Hertel

-2-

Also enclosed is a copy of the Notice of Approval of Decommissioning Plan and Notice of License Termination, which is being sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/RA by Marvin Mendonca Acting for/

Patrick M. Madden, Section Chief
Research and Test Reactors Section
New, Research and Test Reactors Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-160

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 15 to
Indemnity Agreement No. E-30
2. *Federal Register* Notice

cc w/enclosures: See next page

cc:

Mr. Charles H. Badger
Office of Planning and Budget
Room 608
270 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334

Mayor of City of Atlanta
55 Trinity Avenue, S.W.
Suite 2400
Atlanta, GA 30335

Dr. William Vernetson
Director of Nuclear Facilities
Department of Nuclear Engineering
Sciences
University of Florida
202 Nuclear Sciences Center
Gainesville, FL 32611

Joe D. Tanner, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources
47 Trinity Avenue, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dr. Rodney Ice, MORIS
Neely Nuclear Research Center
Georgia Institute of Technology
900 Atlantic Drive
Atlanta, GA 30332-0425

Ms. Pamela Blockey-O'Brien
D23 Golden Valley
Douglasville, GA 30134

Mr. E. F. Cobb
Southern Nuclear Company
42 Iverness Center
Birmingham, AL 35242

Dr. G. Wayne Clough, President
Georgia Institute of Technology
Carnegie Building
Atlanta, GA 30332-0325

Ms. Glen Carrol
139 Kings Highway
Decatur, GA 30030

Charles Bechhoefer, Chairman
Atomic Safety and
Licensing Board Panel
U.S. NRC, MS: T3-F23
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Mr. James C. Hardeman, Jr.
Manager, Environmental
Radiation Program
Environmental Protection Division
Dept. of Natural Resources
State of Georgia
4244 International Parkway
Suite 114
Atlanta, GA 30354

Dr. Jean-Lou Chameau, Dean
College of Engineering
Georgia Institute of Technology
225 North Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30332-0425

Dr. Peter S. Lam
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
U.S. NRC, MS: T3-F23
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dr. J. Narl Davidson, Interim Dean
Chair, Technical and Safety Review
Committee
Georgia Institute of Technology
225 North Avenue
Atlanta, GA 3033-0360

Dr. Charles Liotta, Vice Provost
of Research and Dean of
Graduate Studies
Georgia Institute of Technology
225 North Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30332

Dr. N. E. Hertel

-2-

December 2, 2003

Also enclosed is a copy of the Notice of Approval of Decommissioning Plan and Notice of License Termination, which is being sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/RA by Marvin Mendonca Acting for/

Patrick M. Madden, Section Chief
Research and Test Reactors Section
New, Research and Test Reactors Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-160

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 15 to
Indemnity Agreement No. E-30
2. *Federal Register* Notice

cc w/enclosures: See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC	RNRP\R&TR r/f	TDragoun	MMendonca
AAdams	JLyons	OGC	EHylton
FGillespie	SHolmes	CBassett	DMatthews
WEresian	PIsaac	PDoyle	PMadden
DHughes	GHill (2) (T5-C3)	IDinitz	CHaney

ADAMS ACCESSION NO.: ML032751034

TEMPLATE #: NRR-106

***Please see previous concurrence**

OFFICE	TechEd		RNRP:LA		RNRP:PM		RPRP:PD		OGC		RNRP:SC	
NAME	*PKleene		*EHylton:rd		*DHughes		CHaney		*AFernandez		PMadden	
DATE	10/ 01 /03		10/ 21 /03		10/ 22 /03		12/ 01 /03		11/ 24 /03		12/ 02 /03	

C = COVER

**E = COVER & ENCLOSURE
OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

N = NO COPY

Docket No. 50-160

AMENDMENT TO INDEMNITY AGREEMENT NO. E-30
AMENDMENT NO. 15

Effective December 2, 2003, Indemnity Agreement No. E-30 between Georgia Institute of Technology and the Atomic Energy Commission, dated December 21, 1962, as amended, is hereby terminated.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Catherine Haney, Program Director
Policy and Rulemaking Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Accepted:_____ 2003

By:_____
Georgia Institute of Technology

Docket No. 50-160

AMENDMENT TO INDEMNITY AGREEMENT NO. E-30
AMENDMENT NO. 15

Effective December 2, 2003, Indemnity Agreement No. E-30 between Georgia Institute of Technology and the Atomic Energy Commission, dated December 21, 1962, as amended, is hereby terminated.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Catherine Haney, Program Director
Policy and Rulemaking Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Accepted:_____ 2003

By:_____
Georgia Institute of Technology

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
DOCKET NO. 50-160
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH REACTOR
NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF DECOMMISSIONING PLAN AND
NOTICE OF LICENSE TERMINATION

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is noticing the approval of the decommissioning plan for the Georgia Institute of Technology (GT or the licensee) GT Research Reactor (GTRR) and is also noticing the termination of Facility Operating License No. R-97 for the GTRR.

The NRC has terminated the license of the decommissioned GTRR, which was in the Neely Nuclear Research Center in the north-central part of the GT campus in the city of Atlanta, Georgia, and has released the site for unrestricted use. The licensee requested termination of the license in a letter to NRC dated June 14, 2002. The GTRR was a 5 MW thermal, heavy-water-moderated, -cooled, and -reflected reactor that was fueled with uranium aluminum alloy plates. It was licensed and first operated in 1964 and had a licensed thermal power level of 1 MW, which was upgraded to 5000 kW thermal in 1974. The reactor was permanently shut down on November 17, 1995. The licensee submitted a decommissioning plan to NRC for

review and approval in letters dated July 1, 1998, and February 8 and May 28, 1999. The decommissioning plan was approved by License Amendment No. 14 issued on July 22, 1999.

A "Notice and Solicitation of Comments Pursuant to 10 CFR 20.1405 and 10 CFR 50.82(b)(5) Concerning Proposed Action To Decommission Georgia Institute of Technology Georgia Tech Research Reactor" appeared in the *Federal Register* on February 1, 1999 (64 FR 4902). All comments received were considered by the staff during the review of the GTRR Decommissioning Plan.

The NRC completed its review of the GTRR Final Status Survey Report dated June 2002, which was submitted by the licensee to NRC by letter dated June 14, 2002. The report documented the level of residual radioactivity remaining at the facility and stated that compliance with the criteria as approved in the NRC-approved decommissioning plan had been demonstrated.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.82(b)(6), the NRC staff has concluded that the decommissioning has been performed in accordance with the approved decommissioning plan and that the terminal radiation survey and associated documentation demonstrate that the facility and site are suitable for release in accordance with the criteria in the NRC-approved decommissioning plan. Further, on the basis of the decommissioning activities conducted by GT, the NRC's review of the licensee's final status survey report, the results of NRC inspections conducted at the GTRR, and the results of NRC confirmatory surveys, the NRC has concluded that the decommissioning process is complete and the facility and site are suitable to be released for unrestricted use. Based on the NRC staff's conclusions, Facility Operating License No. R-97 is terminated.

For further details see the licensee's application for decommissioning dated July 1, 1998, and February 8 and May 28, 1999; the July 22, 1999, License Amendment No. 14 to Facility

Operating License No. R-97; the licensee's request for license termination dated June 14, 2002; the GTRR Final Status Survey Report dated June 2002, which was submitted to NRC by letter dated June 14, 2002; and NRC Inspection Report No. 50-160/2002-20, dated June 24, 2003, and corrected July 17, 2003. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records for GT dated after January 30, 2000, will be accessible electronically from the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS should call the NRC PDR reference staff at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737 or e-mail pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 2nd day of December 2003.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Marvin M. Mendonca, Acting Section Chief
Research and Test Reactors Section
New, Research and Test Reactors Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation