

December 15, 2004

Dr. Terrence Tehan, Director
Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center
Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission
16 Reactor Road
Narragansett, RI 02882-1165

SUBJECT: RHODE ISLAND NUCLEAR SCIENCE CENTER (RINSC)— REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE: REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT NO. 30 TO
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. R-95 (TAC NOS. MC1459, MC2878 and
MC2879)

Dear Dr. Tehan:

We are continuing our review of your request for Amendment to Facility Operating License No. R-95 for the RINSC Research Reactor submitted in RINSC's letters dated November 20, 2003, March 5, 2004, April 5, 2004, August 16, 2004, October 26, 2004, and November 15, 2004. Several of the changes will be issued separately as Amendment No. 29 as per your request in the August 16, 2004 letter. The remaining proposed Technical Specification (TS) changes are still under review. Questions have arisen for which we require additional information and clarification. Please provide responses to the enclosed request for additional information within 60 days of the date of this letter. In accordance with 10 CFR 50.30 (b), your response must be executed in a signed original under oath or affirmation. Following receipt of the additional information, we will continue our evaluation of your license amendment request.

If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact me at 301-415-1631.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Daniel E. Hughes, Project Manager
Research and Test Reactors Section
New, Research and Test Reactors Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-193

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/enclosure: Please see next page

Rhode Island Nuclear Science Center

Docket No. 50-193

cc:

Dr. Vincent C. Rose, Chairman, RIAEC
University of Rhode Island
Chemical Engineering Department
118 Crawford Hall
Kingston, RI 02881

Dr. Harry Knickle, Chairman
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102 Bliss Hall
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Mr. Charles McMahon
Supervisor, Radiation Control Specialist
Rhode Island Department of Health
Division of Occupational and Radiological Health
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Test, Research, and Training
Reactor Newsletter
University of Florida
202 Nuclear Sciences Center
Gainesville, FL 32611

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
RHODE ISLAND NUCLEAR SCIENCE CENTER
DOCKET NO. 50-193

No.	TS Page	TS Section/Table/ Figure	Request or Question
1	42	6.1.2 (November 20, 2003 Ltr)	Please provide further discussion concerning the requested change to this TS. Include in the discussion how the intent of section 6.1.3 of ANSI/ANS-15.1-1990, <i>The Development of Technical Specifications for Research Reactors</i> , is satisfied if the proposed change is accepted. Please justify not prohibiting the actions that are now prohibited, when combined with TS 1.9.1c, by your present TS 6.1.2. Please describe the "...routine pre-checks of systems and experiments at pool level..." and why the master switch must be on and only the reactor operator can do the pre-checks. Discuss how, while the key is in the console and the master switch is not in the off position and no one is in the control room, the proposed change limits the actions of the reactor operator or monitors the consequences of the actions of the operator or other personnel. Discuss how it is assured that no reactor operations are performed that do not meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.54 (i-m).
2	19	Proposed Table 3.2 (November 20, 2003 Ltr)	Please discuss number 5, Ln Period, of this proposed table. This instrumentation is not part of the existing TS, is not marked as a change on the proposed replacement page, and there is no discussion of the change in the amendment request letter dated November 20, 2003.
3	19	Table 3.2 (November 20, 2003 Ltr)	Discuss the note that is proposed for Table 3.2 "Grab sampling may be substituted for monitoring operations for up to eight hours in the event of monitor failure." What method will be used to evaluate the sample? What sample frequency shall be used? What alarm level will be appropriate?
4	15	Proposed Section 3.2.5 (November 20, 2003 Ltr)	Please discuss the setpoint and function of the two radiation monitors proposed. Please discuss how these two monitors are able to provide equivalent function and coverage of the monitors that are now specified in Table 3.2. 6-11.
5	42	Proposed Section 6.0.1 (April 5, 2004 Ltr)	Please discuss the purpose of the reduction in the number of voting members in the NRSC.
6	47	Section 6.4.4 (April 5, 2004 Ltr)	Please justify maintaining this section unchanged while proposing that the voting membership be reduced to four members. The intent of the existing specification and Section 6.2.2 (2) of ANSI/ANS-15.1-1990, <i>The Development of Technical Specifications for Research Reactors</i> , is that the quorum be a majority of the voting membership. With the proposed change it is possible that a valid quorum could include only one voting member, the Chairman or designee.