



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 13, 2020

Dr. Partha Chowdhury, Director
Nuclear Radiation Laboratory
University of Massachusetts-Lowell
One University Avenue
Lowell, MA 01854

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL – RESPONSE TO REQUEST
FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND TO REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION REGARDING THE RENEWAL OF FACILITY OPERATING
LICENSE NO. R-125 (EPID NO. L-2015-RNW-0001)

Dear Dr. Chowdhury:

The University of Massachusetts Lowell (UML) holds U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Facility Operating License No. R-125 for the operation of the UML Research Reactor (UMLRR). By application dated October 20, 2015 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16042A015), as supplemented, UML applied for renewal of the UMLRR operating license.

On July 19, 2019 (ADAMS Accession No. ML18092B090), the NRC staff sent UML a letter enclosing requests for additional information (RAIs) identifying additional information needed for the NRC staff to continue its review of UML's renewal application. The NRC staff's letter requested that UML provide responses to the RAIs by October 21, 2019, and stated that based on this response date, the NRC staff expected to complete its review and make a final determination on the renewal request by June 30, 2020.

By letter dated October 18, 2019 (ADAMS Accession No. ML19291C293), UML provided responses to the NRC staff's RAIs, but requested an additional 60 days beyond the deadline in the NRC staff's July 19, 2019, letter to provide additional information to complete its responses to RAI-7.4.c, RAI-7.4.d, and RAI-7.5.a (RAI numbers corrected by UML in a follow-up letter dated October 24, 2019 (ADAMS Accession No. ML19297F433)). The NRC staff accepted UML's extension request by letter dated October 30, 2019 (ADAMS Accession No. ML19296E279).

By letters dated December 19 and 20, 2019 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML19353C523 and ML19354A610, respectively), UML provided a response to RAI-7.4.d. In its letter dated December 19, 2019, UML also requested an additional 60 days beyond the updated deadline in the NRC staff's October 30, 2019, letter to complete its responses to RAI-7.4.c and RAI-7.5.a.

The NRC staff accepts UML's extension request dated December 19, 2019, such that the deadline for UML to complete its responses to RAI-7.4.c and RAI-7.5.a is now February 18, 2020.

Based on the information that UML requested additional time to provide, and the new response date, the NRC staff continues to expect to complete its review and make a final determination on the renewal request by June 30, 2020. However, this date could still change due to several factors including a need for further RAIs, unanticipated changes to the scope of the review, unsolicited supplements to the application for the renewal, and others. If the forecasted date changes, the NRC staff will notify you in writing of the new date and an explanation of the reason for the change.

If you have any questions, or need additional time to respond to the NRC staff's original July 19, 2019, request, please contact me at 301-415-4067, or by electronic mail at Edward.Helvenston@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Edward Helvenston, Project Manager
Non-Power Production and Utilization Facility
Licensing Branch
Division of Advanced Reactors and Non-Power
Production and Utilization Facilities
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-223
License No. R-125

cc: See next page

University of Massachusetts - Lowell

Docket No. 50-223

cc:

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Mr. Leo Bobek
Reactor Supervisor
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Test, Research and Training
Reactor Newsletter
Attention: Ms. Amber Johnson
Department of Materials Science
and Engineering
University of Maryland
4418 Stadium Drive
College Park, MD 20742-2115

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML120009E848***concurred via email****NRR-106**

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