

NUCLEAR ENGINEERING SCIENCES DEPARTMENT
Nuclear Reactor Facility
University of Florida



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March 27, 1990

Updated Proposal To Meet
Requirements of 10 CFR 50.64(c)(2)

Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Re: University of Florida Training Reactor (UFTR)
Facility License: R-56; Docket No. 50-83

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is an updated proposal intended to meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.64(c)(2). Except for scheduling, this proposal is essentially unchanged from that originally submitted with a cover letter dated March 26, 1987 and later revised as to its schedule pursuant to a request from the NRC Project Manager Theodore Michaels dated April 17, 1987. This revised schedule was submitted with cover letters dated May 14, 1987. It is also essentially unchanged from the updated proposals submitted with letters dated March 22, 1988 and March 27, 1989 except for the revised schedule and the presence of substantive information on progress to date.

The updated written proposal outlines how the R-56 licensee intends to meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.64 Paragraph (b)(2) to include certification that funding for conversion has been received through the Department of Energy for the first phase of the project and a tentative schedule for conversion based upon availability of replacement fuel acceptable to the Commission and upon consideration of the availability of additional funding, shipping casks, implementation of arrangements for the available financial support and allowing for commitments of reactor usage. The schedule has slipped significantly due to delays in work to qualify the SPERT fuel and due to delays in safety analysis as we awaited code implementation and availability of graduate students for the work. The delays in work with the SPERT fuel were most significant in 1988 and 1989 as the SPERT fuel had to be moved, under the SNM-1050 license, and then various license changes approved prior to initiation of the qualification work which was lengthy and subject to several equipment (x-ray machine) failures. The non-destructive testing of the SPERT fuel was completed successfully by April, 1989; however, shielding and other structural changes necessitated by use of the SPERT fuel resulted in a decision in August, 1989 to utilize plate-type silicide fuel for the conversion with this decision made, work was then expected

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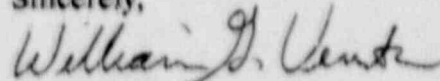
Letter to Director, NRC

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to progress more rapidly as the code methodology for safety analyses was being implemented and tested in parallel. However the decision by the graduate student performing this work to leave the university to pursue his degree elsewhere in summer, 1989 plus the unavailability of another student to assume this responsibility has resulted in further delays. Nevertheless, a student project has resulted in some progress in assuring neutronics methodology is adequate though many calculations are being repeated. It is hoped that this individual will remain on the project for his thesis work; if this effort is successful, the analyses will be able to move forward as projected in the attached updated proposal.

If further information is needed, please advise. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

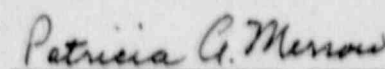


William G. Vernetson
Director of Nuclear Facilities

WGV/lmc

Encl:

CC: P.M. Whaley
Reactor Safety Review Subcommittee

 3/27/90
Notary Public Date

Notary Public, State Of Florida At Large
My Commission Expires Mar. 30, 1991
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