



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE  
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION  
SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 11 TO LICENSE NO. R-73  
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
DOCKET NO.: 50-139

Introduction

By letter dated January 16, 1980, University of Washington (the licensee) filed a request for amendment to Facility Operating License No. R-73 for the Argonaut-type research reactor. The present license permits the possession, and use of up to 7.5 kilograms of contained uranium 235 for use in connection with the operation of the reactor. The proposed amendment reduces the quantity of special nuclear material for possession and use to 4.4 kilograms of contained uranium 235. The proposed amendment authorizes storage of 3.6 kilograms of contained uranium 235 at an off-site location.

Evaluation

The current possession limit of 7.5 kilograms of contained uranium 235 is higher than necessary at the present time, since the license has reduced the amount of uranium 235 possessed by transfer or shipment to an off-site storage location at a Department of Energy facility. Since the proposed possession limit is adequate for current operations, the higher limit is not needed. Because this amendment reduces the possession limit for special nuclear material and does not involve the operation of the reactor in any manner different from that previously reviewed, we have concluded that this amendment is administrative in nature.

Conclusions

We have concluded, based on the considerations above, that:

- (1) the amendment does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequence of accidents previously considered, does not involve a significant decrease in a safety margin, and, therefore does not involve a significant hazards consideration;

- (2) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by this action; and
- (3) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and the issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

We have determined that this amendment will not result in any significant environmental impact and that it does not constitute a major Commission action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

We have also determined that this action is not one of those covered by 10 CFR 51.5(a) or (b). Having made these determinations, we have further concluded that, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.5(d)(4), an environmental impact and negative declaration need not be prepared in connection with issuance of this amendment.

Dated: June 4, 1981