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UNITED STATED NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

REGARDING TERMINATION OF FACILITY LICENSE NO. R-109

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY L-77 RESEARCH REACTOR

DOCKET NO. 50-262

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an Order terminating Facility License No. R-109 for the Brigham Young University (BYU or the licensee) L-77 Research Reactor located on the licensee's campus in Provo, Utah in accordance with the application dated June 28, 1990, as supplemented on July 2, 1991; March 9, 1992; April 15, 1994; and May 30, October 9, and December 7, 1995.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of Proposed Action:

By application dated June 28, 1990, as supplemented on July 2, 1991, and March 9, 1992, the licensee requested authorization to dismantle the BYU L-77 Research Reactor, and dispose of its component parts in accordance with the proposed decommissioning plan. The July 2, 1991, submittal also requested authorization to terminate Facility License No. R-109. Following an "Order Approving Decommissioning Plan and Authorizing Decommissioning," dated July 23, 1992 (57 FR 33979), the licensee completed the dismantlement and submitted a final survey report dated April 15, 1994, as supplemented on May 30, October 9, and December 7, 1995. Representatives of the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), under contract to NRC, conducted a survey of the facility on April 10 and 11, 1996. The survey is documented

in an ORISE report, "Radiological Survey for the Brigham Young University L-77 Research Reactor Provo, Utah," dated June 1996. NRC Region IV staff, in a memorandum dated July 15, 1996, found that the ORISE report findings support the data developed in the licensee final survey report.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

In order to release the facility for unrestricted access and use, Facility License No. R-109 must be terminated.

Environmental Impact of License Termination:

The licensee indicates that the residual contamination and dose exposures comply with the criteria of Regulatory Guide 1.86, Table 1, which establishes acceptable residual surface contamination levels, and the exposure limit, established by the NRC staff, of less than 5 micro-R/hr above background at 1 meter. The NRC verified these measurements. The NRC finds that, since these criteria have been met, there is no significant impact on the environment, and the facility can be released for unrestricted use.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action. Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts and would deny release of the site for unrestricted use and require continuance of the facility license. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar. Since the contaminated and activated reactor and component parts have been dismantled and disposed of in accordance with NRC regulations and guidelines, there is no alternative with less of an environmental impact than the termination of Facility License No. R-109.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

Personnel from the Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Education (an NRC contractor) conducted the confirmatory survey for the BYU L-77 Research Reactor. The staff consulted with the Utah State official regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The NRC has determined not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed action. On the basis of the foregoing Environmental Assessment, the NRC has concluded that the issuance of the Order will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this proposed action, see the application for termination of Facility License No. R-109, dated June 28, 1990, as supplemented. These documents are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 21st day of October 1996.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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