

Office of the Dean  
College of  
Engineering  
Campus Box 8060  
Pocatello, Idaho  
83209-8060

January 31, 1997

Mr. Michael F. Weber, Chief  
Licensing Branch (T8D14)  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards, NMSS  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint North  
11555 Rockville Place  
Rockville, MD 20852

Subject: Request to amend Materials License No. SNM-1373.

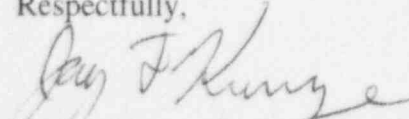
Dear Mr. Weber:

In our January 9, 1997, reply to the notice of violation issued to Idaho State University (ISU) resulting from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Inspection Report 70-01374/96-01, we made commitments to take corrective actions for apparent license violations discovered during the October 25, 1996, inspection.

In keeping with those commitments, we request that Materials License SNM-1373, Docket No. 70-1374, be amended to reflect the changes listed on the attached sheet to the license application dated March 13, 1991. Enclosed are six copies of the request for license amendment. We believe that approval of these changes and the subsequent granting of the requested amendment to the Materials License will bring our facility into full compliance with the provisions and conditions of the license.

Further, please be advised that we expect to submit the license renewal application to NRC before the end of June, well before the license expires on October 31, 1997. Please feel free to contact me at (208) 236-2902 regarding any questions you may have concerning this matter.

Respectfully,

  
Jay F. Kunze, Ph.D., P.E., CHP  
Dean and Professor

Enclosure: Request for License Amendment (6 copies)

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PDR ADDCK 07001374  
C PDR

Phone:  
(208) 236-2902  
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**REQUEST FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT  
MATERIALS LICENSE No. SNM-1373**

In order to meet the commitments made to NRC in the reply to the notice of violation resulting from the NRC Inspection Report 70-01374/96-01, the Idaho State University (ISU) College of Engineering requests NRC to amend Materials License No. 1373, Docket No. 70-1374, to reflect the changes listed below.

A. Changes to the license application dated March 13, 1991.

Page 1: The current members of the Idaho State Board of Education (SBOE), which provides oversight and direction of the higher education institutions in Idaho and is located in Boise, Idaho, P.O. Box 83720-0037, are as follows:

Dr. Carole McWilliam, President - Pocatello  
Thomas Dillion, M.D., Vice-President - Caldwell  
Judith C. Meyer, Secretary - Hayden Lake  
Harold W. Davis, Member - Idaho Falls  
Curtis H. Eaton, Member - Twin Falls  
Jerry Hess, Member - Nampa  
Roy E. Mosman, Member - Moscow  
Dr. Anne Fox, Ex officio - Boise

University Officers are currently:

Dr. Richard L. Bowen, President of the University  
Administration Building  
Idaho State University

Dr. Jonathan N. Lawson, Academic Vice President  
Administration Building  
Idaho State University

Dr. Robert W. Pearce, Financial Vice President  
Administration Building  
Idaho State University

Dr. Jay F. Kunze, Dean of the College of Engineering  
Lillibridge Engineering Building  
Idaho State University

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Additionally, the Radiation Safety Officer for the University is:

Dr. Thomas F. Gesell  
Physical Science Building  
Idaho State University

Page 2: Change the last sentence of paragraph 2 under heading "70.22.2.a Activity for which the material is requested:" to read:

No activity will be performed without the prior approval of the Reactor Administrator.

Page 2: Change the last sentence of paragraph 2 under heading "(b) The place and the general plan for carrying out the activity:" to read:

Only the Dean, Reactor Administrator, Reactor Supervisor, and personnel authorized by the Reactor Administrator have keys to this section of the basement.

Page 5: Change the sentence under heading "70.22.a.6 Technical qualifications of the applicant and staff:" to read:

Attached as enclosure (1) are the biographical data for those members of Idaho State University who will have responsibility for the supervision and operation of the subcritical assembly.

John S. Bennion, Ph.D., P.E., Assistant Professor of Engineering and Reactor Administrator.

Jay F. Kunze, Ph.D., P.E., CHP, Dean, College of Engineering, Professor of Engineering and Alternate Reactor Administrator.

Thomas F. Gesell, Ph.D., Professor of Health Physics and Radiation Safety Officer.

Page 6: Change everything under heading "(c) Measuring and Monitoring Instruments" to the following:

Beta, gamma, and neutron dosimeters provided by an NVLAP-certified vendor are issued to all students and staff working with the special nuclear material.

Electronic measuring equipment of the following generic characteristics:

- NaI(Tl) and HPGe gamma spectrometers.

- Gas-flow  $2\pi$  proportional counter (Technical Associates Model SFM-5V-3, or equivalent).

- Fast neutron detector (Health Physics Instruments Model Rem-500, or equivalent).

- Hand-held survey instruments:

  - Ludlum Model 14A Geiger Counter with beta/gamma probe (or equivalent).

  - Ludlum Model 2A Geiger Counter with thin-window pancake probe (or equivalent).

  - Eberline Model E-120 Geiger Counter with beta/gamma probe (or equivalent).

  - Ludlum Model 3 Survey Meter with ZnS alpha probe (or equivalent).

In addition, all available portable radiation monitoring equipment listed in the "By-products Materials License" (reference 2, page 27, para. 9) may be used by College of Engineering personnel, if necessary.

Page 7: Change the last sentence of paragraph 2 under heading "(e) Storage facilities and security measures" to read:

Also, the building is patrolled by Idaho State University security officers several times daily at random hours between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

Page 8: Change the fourth sentence under heading "(ii) Radiation hazard from neutron sources:" to read:

The sources will be handled with tongs or source holders, such handling will be under the supervision of the Reactor Administrator, Reactor Supervisor, or the Radiation Safety Officer.

Page 9: Change the second paragraph under heading "(c) Accidental criticality:" to read:

"NOTICE The following quantities of specific materials are not to be taken into the subcritical assembly area without the permission of the Reactor Administrator: graphite - 8 lb, beryllium - 2 lb, beryllium oxide - 4 lb, heavy water - 2 lb, fissionable isotopes ( $^{235}\text{U}$ ,  $^{233}\text{U}$ ,  $^{239}\text{Pu}$ ) - 3 gm of any one isotope or combination of isotopes except for the Pu-Be sources necessary for facility operation. Permission will be granted for only one material at a time. Quantities cannot exceed the amounts specified above. These limitations apply to all chemical forms of, and mixtures containing, the above materials. Detailed plans of the experiment to be conducted must be submitted before approval will be granted."

Page 10: Change the first sentence of paragraph 1 under heading "(ii) Administrative control:" to read:

The Reactor Administrator is responsible for the safe storage and use of the material.

Page 10: Change paragraph 3 under heading "(ii) Administrative control:" to read:

The Dean, College of Engineering, the Reactor Administrator, and the Reactor Supervisor will each hold one key to room 23 (the subcritical facility room). Other personnel, authorized by the Reactor Administrator, may have access to a key to room 23 located in a combination-locked box. The Dean and the Reactor Administrator will each hold one key to the fuel storage container and the assembly access cover.

Page 11: Change the first 2 sentences in paragraph 6 under heading "(a) (ii) Emergency evacuation procedure:" to read:

The Reactor Administrator, the College of Engineering Dean, the Radiation Safety Officer, and the Reactor Supervisor or their designated alternates are all on an emergency call list and will be notified of the emergency. Building reentry will be directed by the Radiation Safety Officer in consultation with the Reactor Administrator (or their alternates).

B. Requested changes to the NRC Safety Evaluation Report dated September 10, 1992.

Page 2: Change the first paragraph under heading "Organization" to read:

Operated by the State of Idaho, ISU has its principal office at Pocatello, Idaho, and is administered by the State Board of Education. The board members and university officers are all citizens of the United States. The Reactor Administrator is responsible for the safe storage and use of licensed materials. No activities are performed without prior approval of the Reactor Administrator. A Reactor Safety Committee has reviewed and approved all plans and procedures for the usage of the materials in the subcritical assembly. The licensee...

Page 2: Change the third sentence in paragraph 1 under "Condition 11:" to read:

There are currently seven regular members of the committee, in addition to the Reactor Administrator and the Radiation Safety Officer (who are ex officio members).

Page 2: Change the first sentence in paragraph 2 under "Condition 11:" to read:

The Reactor Administrator has direct responsibility for the operation of the subcritical assembly.

Page 3: Change the last sentence in paragraph 1 under the heading "Control of Contamination" to read:

The materials are handled with the supervision of the Reactor Administrator, the Reactor Supervisor, or the Radiation Safety Officer.