



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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 20 TO
FACILITY LICENSE NO. R-77
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO
DOCKET NO. 50-57

Introduction

By letter dated March 8, 1985, the licensee requested an amendment to Operating License No. R-77 for its non-power research reactor located on the campus of the State University of New York at Buffalo. The requested amendment would introduce a private management company (Buffalo Materials Research, Inc.) into the organizational structure, and would re-distribute the responsibilities on campus for radiological safety. The change in organizational structure also includes a change in name of the reactor facility from the Nuclear Science and Technology Facility (NSTF) to the Buffalo Materials Research Center (BMRC).

Discussion and Evaluation

Under the proposed organization the State University of New York at Buffalo continues to be the licensee, with over-all responsibility remaining with the Vice President for Research. The Director of the reactor facility reports to that office for license-related management. The President of Buffalo Materials Research, Inc. provides management of the utilization program to the facility director. The University continues to be responsible for assuring the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission that financial responsibility is maintained, that license conditions are fulfilled, that emergency planning and physical protection provisions are in accordance with regulations, and that radiological safety provisions are acceptable to protect the health and safety of the public. Under the proposed organization, certain of the health physics duties at the reactor facility are managed by the Director, but the campus Radiation Safety Officer and related Radiation Protection Services are assured an independent role by reporting to a university vice president different from the one to whom the Reactor Director reports.

Finally, there will be no loss of experienced personnel caused by the proposed changes in organization, and there is reasonable assurance that future staffing will continue to follow current guidelines and criteria.

On the basis of the above considerations, the staff concludes that the proposed changes for this amendment are acceptable.

Environmental Consideration

This amendment involves changes in the installation or use of facility components located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20, and changes in inspection and surveillance requirements. The staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration (as discussed below), there is no significant change in the types or significant increase in the amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, this amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

Conclusion

The staff has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) because the amendment does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously evaluated, does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated, and does not involve a significant reduction in a safety margin, the amendment 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 the proposed activities, 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.

Principal Contributor: Robert Carter

Dated: August 1, 1985