

UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 50-231

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

AND

SOUTHWEST ATOMIC ENERGY ASSOCIATES

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO PROVISIONAL OPERATING LICENSE

The Atomic Energy Commission is considering the issuance of an amendment to Provisional Operating License No. DR-15 which authorizes the General Electric Company (General Electric) and Southwest Atomic Energy Associates (SAEA), with General Electric acting for itself and for SAEA, to possess, use and operate the plutonia-urania-fueled, fast spectrum, sodium-cooled experimental reactor. The reactor, known as the Southwest Experimental Fast Oxide Reactor (SEFOR), is located in Cove Creek Township, Washington County, Arkansas, approximately 19 miles southwest of Fayetteville, Arkansas. The amendment would authorize (1) the operation of the reactor at steady-state power levels up to a maximum of 20 megawatts thermal and in the pulsed mode of operations, and (2) the receipt, possession and use of up to 10 millicuries each of Krypton-85, Iodine-131, Xenon-133 and Cesium-137 in connection with the operation of the reactor.

The reactor is designed to operate at approximately 20 megawatts thermal and in the pulsed mode, but initial operation was limited to 1 megawatt thermal to permit initial fuel loading and testing. Provisional Operating License No. DR-15 was issued on March 4, 1969, authorizing operation of the reactor at power levels up to 1 megawatt thermal.

The Commission has found that the application for the provisional operating amendment complies with the requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR Chapter 1.

The license will not be issued until the Commission makes the safety findings set forth in the proposed license.

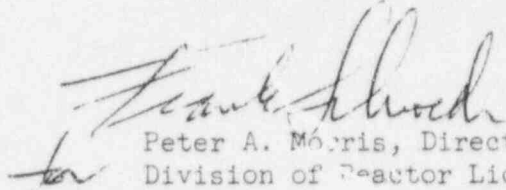
Prior to issuance of the amendment, the facility will be inspected by the Commission to determine whether it has been constructed for 20 megawatt and pulsed operations in accordance with the provisions of Provisional Construction Permit No. CPPR-17 issued by the Commission on September 21, 1965. Upon issuance of the provisional operating license amendment, the licensees will be required to execute an amended indemnity agreement as required by Section 170 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and by 10 CFR Part 140.

Within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER, the applicant may file a request for a hearing, and any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding may file a petition for leave to intervene. Requests for a hearing and petitions to intervene shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's regulations, 10 CFR Part 2. If a request for a hearing or a petition for leave to intervene is filed within the time prescribed in this notice, the Commission will issue a notice of hearing or an appropriate order.

For further details with respect to this proposed amendment, see (1) the application for provisional operating license, as amended, (Amendment Nos. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 to the license application, dated November 1, 1968, December 10, 1968, January 14, 1969, January 24, 1969, February 20, 1969, March 27, 1969 and May 16, 1969, respectively); (2) the reports of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards dated October 10, 1968 and March 13, 1969; (3) the original "Safety Evaluation" dated November 16, 1968, prepared by the Division of Reactor Licensing; (4) the "Supplemental Safety Evaluation"; (5) the proposed amendment to the operating license; and (6) the amended technical specifications which are incorporated in the proposed license amendment and designated as

Appendix A thereto, all of which will be available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Copies of items (2), (3), (4) and (5) above may be obtained at the Commission's Public Document Room, or upon request addressed to the Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D.C. 20545, Attention: Director, Division of Reactor Licensing.

FOR THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION


Peter A. Morris, Director
Division of Reactor Licensing

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland
this 21st day of August, 1969