

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 16, 2021

Dr. Susan A. Martinis Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Fourth Floor, Swanlund Administration Building, MC-304 601 E. John St. Champaign, IL 61820-5711

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN – ASSIGNMENT OF PROJECT NUMBER AND PROJECT MANAGER (EPID NO. L-2021-NFN-0002)

Dear Dr. Martinis:

By letter dated May 19, 2021 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML21153A059), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) informed the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of its intent to submit an application for a construction permit (CP) followed by an application for an operating license (OL) for a test reactor facility for the Micro-Modular Reactor (MMR) high temperature gas-cooled reactor (HTGR) design developed by the Ultra Safe Nuclear Corporation. This letter is to inform UIUC of the assignment of a project number (No.) and an NRC licensing Project Manager (PM) to support future UIUC pre-application interactions and licensing activities. Prior to the submittal of a CP application, UIUC may engage in pre-application activities, such as public meetings and formal requests for interpretations of regulations. To facilitate these activities, the NRC staff has assigned UIUC a Project No. As such, UIUC should reference Project No. 99902094 in all future correspondence supporting pre-application licensing activities with the NRC.

The UIUC is a nonprofit educational institution as defined in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 170, "Fees for Facilities, Materials, Import and Export Licenses, and Other Regulatory Services Under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as Amended," and 10 CFR Part 171, "Annual Fees for Reactor Licenses and Fuel Cycle Licenses and Materials Licenses, Including Holders of Certificates of Compliance, Registrations, and Quality Assurance Program Approvals and Government Agencies Licensed by the NRC."

Pursuant to 10 CFR 170.11(a)(4), "No application fees, license fees, renewal fees, inspection fees, or special project fees shall be required for ... A construction permit or license applied for by, or issued to, a non-profit educational institution for a production or utilization facility, other than a power reactor" Pursuant to 10 CFR 171.11(b)(1), "An annual fee is not required for ... A construction permit or license applied for by, or issued to, a nonprofit educational institution for a production or utilization facility, other than a power reactor"

Because UIUC is a nonprofit educational institution as defined in 10 CFR Parts 170 and 171, pursuant to 10 CFR 170.11(a)(4), UIUC will not be charged for hours NRC staff apply to Project No. 99902094 related to pre-application licensing activities.

Following the receipt and acceptance of a CP application, UIUC will be assigned a formal docket number. Also pursuant to 10 CFR 170.11(a)(4), as a nonprofit educational institution, UIUC would not be charged for hours NRC staff apply to review of a CP or OL application. Furthermore, pursuant to 10 CFR 171.11(b)(1), as a nonprofit educational institution, UIUC would not be charged an annual fee following the issuance of an OL.

In order to support an efficient review of future UIUC licensing submittals, and to leverage NRC experience with licensing reviews involving novel reactor designs, the NRC staff has determined that the Advanced Reactor Licensing Branch (UARL), within the Division of Advanced Reactors and Non-Power Production and Utilization Facilities (DANU), in the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, will have primary project management responsibility for UIUC. Accordingly, Mr. Adrian Muñiz of UARL was assigned as the NRC's licensing PM for UIUC. Going forward, Mr. Muñiz will be the primary PM and NRC point-of-contact for UIUC regarding any licensing activities. Mr. Muñiz may be reached at (301) 415-4093, or via e-mail at <u>Adrian.Muniz@nrc.gov</u>.

Although UARL will take primary project management responsibility for UIUC, the Non-Power Production and Utilization Facility Licensing Branch (UNPL) within DANU will continue to provide appropriate support for UIUC licensing activities, to leverage NRC experience with nonpower reactor licensing, and associated regulations, guidance, and precedents. Accordingly, I will continue to support UIUC licensing activities and have been assigned as the primary UNPL resource for reviews related to UIUC.

In accordance with 10 CFR 50.4, "Written communications," all correspondence should be sent to: ATTN: Document Control Desk, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. An electronic courtesy copy may be provided to your PM at the e-mail address provided.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-2313, or via e-mail at <u>William.Kennedy@nrc.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

William B Kennedy, William on 07/16/21

William Kennedy, Acting Chief Advanced Reactor Licensing Branch Division of Advanced Reactors and Non-Power Production and Utilization Facilities Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 99902094

Cc:

Dr. Caleb Brooks, Ph.D. Associate Professor University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Department of Nuclear, Plasma, and Radiological Engineering Talbot Laboratory, Room 111C, MC-234 104 South Wright St, Urbana, IL 61801

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