



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

November 9, 2021

Dr. Partha Chowdhury, Director
Nuclear Radiation Laboratory
University of Massachusetts-Lowell
One University Avenue
Lowell, MA 01854

**SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL – UPDATE REGARDING THE
RENEWAL OF FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. R-125
(EPID NOS. L-2015-RNW-0001, L-2020-NFR-0008)**

Dear Dr. Chowdhury:

The University of Massachusetts Lowell (UML) holds U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Facility Operating License No. R-125 for the operation of the UML Research Reactor (UMLRR). By application dated October 20, 2015 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16042A015), as supplemented, UML applied for renewal of the UMLRR operating license.

By letter dated August 30, 2021 (ADAMS Accession No. ML21229A081), the NRC staff informed UML that based on its current expected resources, and the time the NRC staff expected to need to complete and document its review of UML's renewal application, as supplemented, the NRC staff was providing a date of November 15, 2021, by which it expected to complete its review and make a final determination on the renewal request.

As discussed during a teleconference with UML on November 9, 2021, based on the NRC staff's updated current expected resources, and additional time needed to complete and document its review (primarily, to accommodate additional NRC staff review determined to be necessary related to the instrumentation and control (I&C) systems at the UMLRR, including I&C upgrades UML proposed in its renewal application, as supplemented), the NRC staff is providing a revised completion date of January 21, 2022, by which it expects to complete its review and make a final determination on the renewal request. However, this date could still change due to several factors including a need for further requests for additional information, unanticipated changes to the scope of the review, unsolicited supplements to the application for the renewal, and others. If the forecasted date changes, the NRC staff will notify you in writing of the new date and an explanation of the reason for the change.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-4067, or by electronic mail at Edward.Helvenston@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Helvenston, Edward
on 11/09/21

Edward M. Helvenston, Project Manager
Non-Power Production and Utilization Facility
Licensing Branch
Division of Advanced Reactors and Non-Power
Production and Utilization Facilities
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-223
License No. R-125

cc: See next page

University of Massachusetts - Lowell

Docket No. 50-223

cc:

Mayor of Lowell
City Hall
Lowell, MA 01852

Mr. Leo Bobek
Reactor Supervisor
University of Massachusetts - Lowell
One University Avenue
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One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

Jack Priest, Director
Radiation Control Program
Department of Public Health
Schrafft Center, Suite 1M2A
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Charlestown, MA 02129

Ms. Samantha Phillips, Director
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
400 Worcester Road
Framingham, MA 01702-5399

Test, Research and Training
Reactor Newsletter
Attention: Ms. Amber Johnson
Department of Materials Science
and Engineering
University of Maryland
4418 Stadium Drive
College Park, MD 20742-2115

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DATED: NOVEMBER 9, 2021

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML20302A055**NRR-106**

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