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Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 26th day of July 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ronald W. Hernan,

Senior Project Manager, Section 2, Project Directorate II, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 99-19697 Filed 7-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-123]

University of Missouri, Rolla, Nuclear Research Reactor, Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering the issuance of a license amendment to Facility Operating License No. R-79, issued to University of Missouri, Rolla (the licensee) for operation of the University of Missouri, Rolla Research Reactor (UMRR).

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would allow extension of the license expiration time from November 20, 1999, to January 14, 2005, for the UMRR as requested by the licensee on May 24, 1999, in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 50.90. The licensee submitted an Environmental Report on June 24, 1999.

Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action is necessary for the continued operation of the UMRR in order to continue instruction, training, and research at the University of Missouri, Rolla.

Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action

The UMRR is located at the University of Missouri, Rolla campus in a metal building on the east side of the campus near 14th Street and Pine Street.

The UMRR is a low power (200 kilowatts), pool-type research reactor (200 kilowatts). The NRC licensed the facility in 1961 at 10 kilowatts and increased maximum authorized power level to 200 kilowatts in 1966. The

facility license was renewed in 1985. Since about 1985, the facility has operated about 9 megawatt-hours per year on average. During that time, the gaseous radiological release has been about 100 millicuries/year of Argon-41. Liquid releases have been minimized and radiological liquid releases have been eliminated since about 1994. Solid releases of radioactive material have averaged about 70 microcuries since about 1985. Currently, there are no plans to change any operating characteristics of the reactor during the license extension period.

The Commission concludes that the radiological effects of the continued operation will be minimal based on past radiological releases. The radiological exposures for facility operations have been within regulatory limits. Conditions are not expected to change.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

In addition, the environmental impact associated with operation of research reactors has been generically evaluated by the staff and is discussed in the attached generic evaluation. This evaluation concludes that there will be no significant environmental impact associated with the operation of research reactors licensed to operate at power levels up to and including 2 megawatts thermal and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for the issuance of construction permits or operating licenses for such facilities. We have determined that this generic evaluation is applicable to operation of the UMRR and that there are no special or unique features that would preclude reliance on the generic evaluation.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

The alternative to the proposed action for the Research Reactor Facility is to deny the application (i.e., "no action" alternative). If this were the case, the licensee has indicated that they would apply for license renewal and operate under the timely renewal provisions of 10 CFR 2.109 until the Commission renewed or denied the license renewal application. With operation under timely renewal or renewal, the actual conditions of the reactor would not

change. If the Commission denied license renewal, UMRR Operations would stop and decommissioning would be required with a likely small impact on the environment.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Environmental Assessment prepared for the renewal of University of Missouri, Rolla's license in January 1985.

Agencies and Persons Contacted

On June 30, 1999, the staff consulted with the Missouri Environmental Public Health Official, Gary McNutt, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The state official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated May 24, 1999, as supplemented in a letter dated June 24, 1999, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of July 1999.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ledyard B. Marsh,

Chief, Events Assessment, Generic Communications, and Non-Power Reactors Branch, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 99-19695 Filed 7-30-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-245]

Northeast Nuclear Energy Company, Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1; Issuance of Final Director's Decision Under 10 CFR 2.206

Notice is hereby given that the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation has issued a Final Director's Decision with regard to a Petition dated August 21, 1995, and supplemented on August 28, 1995, submitted by George Galatis and We the People, Inc. (the Petitioners), requesting action under