



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 28, 1999

DOCKET NO: 70-734

LICENSEE: General Atomics (GA)
San Diego, California

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT: TORREY PINES SOUTH - RELEASE
TO UNRESTRICTED USE

BACKGROUND

In an application dated August 27, 1999, and revision letter dated September 8, 1999, GA requested that their license be amended to remove authorized activities at the Torrey Pines South (TPS) land area from their NRC license.

DISCUSSION

The buildings and land areas at TPS have not and will not be used for activities involving NRC-licensed special nuclear material, but have been and will continue to be used in conducting activities which are authorized by GA's State of California radioactive materials license. There are several buildings located on this site, but only three have been used for activities authorized by GA's State of California radioactive materials license. Those buildings are Building 10, where GA's Health Physics Laboratory is currently located; Building 33-1, the former location of the Health Physics Laboratory; and Building 33, where small quantities of byproduct material may be used in the future.

The TPS area has not been impacted by the use or storage of radioactive materials elsewhere on the GA site. All of the land areas directly abutting TPS are land areas that were non-impacted and have been released to unrestricted use or are not GA property.

In a meeting with GA and the California Department of Health Services (DOHS) Radiologic Health Branch on November 4, 1999, NRC staff discussed the regulatory jurisdiction of the remaining GA facilities to be decommissioned. The regulatory jurisdictions were documented in Table S-1 of the GA Site Decommissioning Plan, approved by NRC in Amendment 45 to GA's license (April 29, 1998), and were confirmed by California DOHS at the meeting. This confirmation is documented in the meeting summary, memorandum to Theodore S. Sherr from Mary Adams and Charles Gaskin, December 13, 1999. Table S-1 identifies that the buildings in TPS are within the regulatory jurisdiction of the State of California.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The staff has determined that the changes to the license are related to decreased operations at the facility resulting from the proposed overall decommissioning of the site. Accordingly, the staff has determined that the criteria in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11) for categorically excluding an action from an environmental review have been met. Therefore, neither an Environmental Assessment nor Environmental Impact Statement is necessary for this action.

CONCLUSION

The staff has determined that removing TPS from GA's NRC license is in accordance with their approved Site Decommissioning Plan and meets regulatory requirements. The staff concludes that there is reasonable assurance that the proposed action will not adversely impact upon the health and safety of the public or the environment.

The Region IV Principal Inspector has no objection to this proposed action.

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