



**Georgia Institute
of Technology**

College of Engineering
Office of the Dean

September 12, 1997

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Docket No. 50-160

Attention: Mr. Marvin M. Mendonca, Acting Director
Non-Power Reactors and Decommissioning Project Directorate
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Subject: Monthly Status Report for August 1997
Georgia Tech Research Reactor (GTRR) D&D Project

References: 1. Georgia Tech Letter dated August 7, 1997, Enclosure 2 - Status Report
2. Georgia Tech Research Reactor NRC License No. R-97
3. NRC Docket No. 50-160

Dear Mr. Mendonca:

Enclosed for your information is the status report for the Georgia Tech Research Reactor Decommissioning Program for the month of August 1997. If you have any questions on this information, please contact me at (404-894-3350) or our project manager, Mr. Bill Miller (404-894-4610).

Sincerely,

Earl Davidson
Interim Dean
Chair, Technical and Safety Review Committee

ADOC/1

Enclosure (1) as stated

cc: Dr. G. Wayne Clough, President
Members, Technical and Safety Review Committee

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Docket No. 50-160

Georgia Tech Research Reactor Decommissioning Program
Monthly Status Report - August 1997

A. General

The GTRR remains under a safe shutdown condition as stated in Enclosure 2 of our letter dated August 7, 1997. The reactor facility is in compliance with its license conditions and current technical specifications (10CFR50.51(b)).

B. Activities for the Month

The following activities were performed during the month of August, 1997:

- Final draft of the P-O-L amendment request was completed on August 4, 1997;
- The P-O-L amendment request was reviewed and approved by the Nuclear Safeguard Committee, August 5, 1997;
- The P-O-L amendment request was submitted to USNRC on August 7, 1997;
- An information briefing was presented to the Home Park Community Improvement Association on GTRR decommissioning activities, August 11, 1997. (See attached, Exhibit 1);
- Request for termination of the heavy water loan agreement, and request to ship back the heavy water inventory, was submitted to DOE on August 14, 1997. (See attached, Exhibit 2);
- Draft radiological characterization plan for the decommissioning of the GTRR was submitted by NES to Georgia Tech, August 20, 1997;
- Meeting of the Georgia Tech Technical and Safety Review Committee to review the status of decommissioning activities and to hold preliminary discussions on the post-decommissioning use for the containment building, August 21, 1997;
- Ongoing review and comment on the draft site characterization plan.

C. Planned Activities

The following activities are planned:

- Finalization of the characterization plan. (Through mid-September 1997)
- Public information/Townhall meeting on September 8, 1997.
- Ship the heavy water back to DOE. (Aiken, S.C.)
- Performance of the radiological and hazardous characterization (TBD)
- Review and respond to the USNRC comments on our P-O-L request, September 1997.

Exhibits:

- Memorandum for Record, August 13, 1997, Briefing to the Homepark Community Improvement Association.
- Letter dated August 14, 1997, from Dr. Nolan E. Hertel to Mr. J. Folk (DOE).



Capital Project Management Office
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August 13, 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FOR: Technical and Safety Review Committee
SUBJECT: Meeting With the Home Park Community Improvement Association -
August 11, 1997

An information briefing on decommissioning of the Neely Research Reactor was presented to the Home Park Community Improvement Association at 7:00 PM on Monday, August 11, 1997. This was in conjunction with the Association's monthly meeting at the Tenth Street United Methodist Church. The briefing was presented by Bill Miller as part of a general update on campus planning activities. The following points were covered:

1. The President of Georgia Tech has made a firm decision to decommission the reactor;
2. The reactor fuel, which was removed before the Olympics, will not be replaced;
3. Georgia Tech has applied to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a Possession Only License, the first formal step in the decommissioning program;
4. Georgia Tech has retained a professional consulting firm to assist in decommissioning planning;
5. Decommissioning will include removal of all radioactive reactor components within the containment building. Although a schedule has not been developed, Georgia Tech anticipates the work to remove radioactive components will begin in late 1998, pending approval from the NRC;
6. There are no plans at this time to demolish the containment building. The building will likely be converted to research and academic use.

Following the briefing there were no questions on the decommissioning program. The information was well received and ended with spontaneous applause from approximately sixty Home Park residents in attendance. There was no press coverage at the meeting and no follow-up appeared in the local media.

Submitted:

William A. Miller
William A. Miller
Project Manager

cc: Mr. Francisco Trejo, Vice President, NES, Inc.
Ms. Tammy Tuley, Georgia Tech Communications



Home of the 1996 Olympic Village

Georgia Institute of Technology

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August 14, 1997

James Folk
Manager, Heavy Water Program
Reactor and Spent Fuel Division
Department of Energy
P. O. Box A
Aiken, S.C. 29802

Dear Mr. Folk:

As per our discussion on August 13, 1997, I hereby notify you of the Georgia Tech Neely Nuclear Research Center's need to terminate its heavy water loan agreement with the Department of Energy and return the heavy water in our possession. The termination of this loan is being requested since we are decommissioning our research reactor. We currently have heavy water stored in seven different containers. We have 20,738 lbs of heavy water in a storage tank and another 799 lbs in the purification system. In addition we also have heavy water stored in five drums:

<u>Drum #</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>wt% D₂O</u>	<u>Weight of D₂O (lbs)</u>
18582	SRP Specification D ₂ O	99.60	242
15872	SRP Specification D ₂ O	99.77	372
18624	SRP Specification D ₂ O	99.78	502
16850	High Purity Collection	92.52	83
16851	Low Purity Collection	17.82	33

One drum (#18624), containing the SRP Specification D₂O, has an unbroken seal.

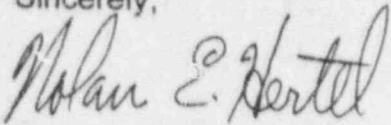
We desire to remove the heavy water from the facility in the immediate future if possible. We will provide you with samples from the storage tank, the purification system, and the unsealed drums as soon as you inform us of the requirements you have on the handling and collection of such samples.

Page Two
Mr. James Foik
August 14, 1997

Please advise me of the steps which we must take to terminate the loan agreement and return the heavy water. We are also interested in the availability of stainless steel drums for shipment of the heavy water.

I thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Nolan E. Hertel, Ph.D., PE
Director, NNRC

NEH/ars

cc: Technical Safety Committee
Francisco Trejo