

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-116]

Iowa State University; Iowa State University UTR-10 Research Reactor; Notice of Approval of Decommissioning Plan and Notice of License Termination

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is noticing the approval of the decommissioning plan for the Iowa State University (ISU or the licensee) UTR-10 Research Reactor and is also noticing the termination of Facility Operating License No. R-59 for the ISU UTR-10 Research Reactor.

The NRC has terminated the license of the decommissioned ISU UTR-10 Research Reactor, which was located in the Nuclear Engineering Building on the west edge of the main campus of ISU in Ames, Iowa, and has released the site for unrestricted use. The licensee requested termination of the license in a letter to NRC dated March 7, 2003. The ISU UTR-10 Research Reactor was an Argonaut-type, water-moderated and cooled, graphite-reflected reactor. It was licensed and first operated in 1959 and had a licensed thermal power level of 10 kW. The reactor was permanently shut down on May 15, 1998. In January 1999 the licensee submitted a decommissioning plan to NRC for review and approval. The decommissioning plan was approved by License Amendment No. 14 issued on May 8, 2000.

A "Notice of Application for Decommissioning Amendment, Iowa State University, UTR-10 Research Reactor" appeared in the **Federal Register** on January 25, 1999 (64 FR 3725), and a "Notice and Solicitation of Comments Pursuant to 10 CFR 20.1405 and 10 CFR 50.82(b)(5) Concerning Proposed Action To Decommission Iowa State University UTR-10 Research Reactor" appeared in the **Federal Register** on February 12, 1999 (64 FR 7214). No comments were received.

The NRC completed its review of the ISU UTR-10 Reactor Final Status Survey Report dated September 2000, which was submitted by the licensee to NRC by letter dated October 9, 2000, as supplemented on January 18, 2001. The report documented the level of residual radioactivity remaining at the facility and stated that compliance with the provisions of 10 CFR 20.1402 had been demonstrated.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.82(b)(6), the NRC staff concluded that the decommissioning has been performed in accordance with the approved decommissioning plan and that the

terminal radiation survey and associated documentation demonstrate that the facility and site are suitable for release in accordance with the criteria for decommissioning in 10 CFR part 20, Subpart E. Further, on the basis of the decommissioning activities conducted by ISU, the NRC's review of the licensee's final status survey report, the results of NRC inspections conducted at the UTR-10 Research Reactor, and the results of NRC confirmatory surveys, the NRC has concluded that the decommissioning process is complete, and the facility and site are suitable to be released for unrestricted use. Based on the NRC staff's conclusions, Facility Operating License No. R-59 has been terminated.

For further details see the licensee's application for decommissioning dated January 4 and 6, 1999; License Amendment No. 14 to Facility Operating License No. R-59 dated May 8, 2000; the licensee's request for license termination dated March 7, 2003; the ISU UTR-10 Reactor Final Status Survey Report dated September 2000, which was submitted to NRC by letter dated October 9, 2000, as supplemented on January 18, 2001; and NRC Inspection Report No. 50-116/2000-201, dated May 9, 2003. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records for ISU dated after January 30, 2000, will be accessible electronically from the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS should call the NRC PDR reference staff at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737 or e-mail to pdr@nrc.gov.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 20th day of June 2003.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Daniel E. Hughes,

Acting Section Chief, Research and Test Reactors Section, Operating Reactor Improvements Program, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-219]

AmerGen Energy Company, LLC; Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) part 55, Section 55.59 for Facility Operating License No. DPR-16, issued to AmerGen Energy Company, LLC (AmerGen or the licensee), for operation of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS), located in Ocean County, New Jersey. As required by 10 CFR 51.21, the NRC is issuing this environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would constitute a one-time exemption to allow the current licensed operator requalification program to exceed 24 months. Specifically, it would extend the current licensed operator requalification program, including both the comprehensive requalification written examinations and the operating tests, for a period up to 90 days following resolution of the current strike but not to exceed six (6) months from the end of the current requalification program, *i.e.*, to December 31, 2003. The next requalification program period would begin upon conclusion of the current program and continue to June 30, 2005, with successive periods running for 24 months. The requested exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 55.59, Item (c)(1), applies to both Reactor Operator and Senior Reactor Operator licensed personnel.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated May 30, 2003.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action would extend the current OCNGS requalification program from June 30, 2003, to 90 days following resolution of the strike, but no later than December 31, 2003. The proposed action is needed to allow for minimal interruption of the licensed personnel based on scheduling difficulties associated with the current labor strike, which commenced on May 22, 2003. The strike involves bargaining unit employees at OCNGS, including Reactor Operator licensed personnel.