



# Georgia Institute of Technology

The George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering

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March 7, 2001

**Fax: 607-255-9417**

Dr. Kenan Unlu, Director  
 Ward Center for Nuclear Sciences  
 Cornell University  
 Ithaca, NY 14853-7701

Dear Kenan:

The current estimated cost for the Georgia Tech Research Reactor decommissioning is \$6.9 million, of which approximately \$1 million is the executive engineering firm contract. The decommissioning contractor is attempting to run through a couple of change orders so the costs could conceivably increase. The cost quoted does not include approximately \$200K previously spent for the removal of the HEU fuel from the facility or another approximately \$200K of work by NES to create the decommissioning plan.

The time line of events were:

November 1995	Last Operation of reactor.
February 1996	Remove HEU fuel from the Facility.
July 1, 1997	Georgia Tech administration declares its intent to decommission the reactor and free release the facility.
October 1997	Characterization study carried out by NES.
April 1998	Possession-Only License Amendment Issued.
July 1998	Heavy water shipped to SRS.
July 1998	Decommissioning Plan (prepared by NES) submitted to NRC.
May 1999	Executive Engineer contract awarded (CH2M Hill).
June 1999	IT Corporation selected as Decommissioning Contractor.

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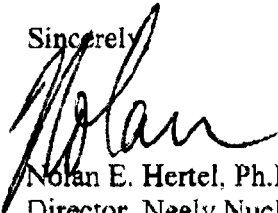
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July 1999	License amendment to decommission GTRR issued by NRC.
August – November 1999	Approval of Work Plans and Procedures
December 1999	Decommissioning Contractor mobilizes on site.
March 25, 2001	D&D work completed.
May 15, 2001	Final Report for license termination submitted to the NRC.
October 15, 2001	Termination of NRC license and containment building free released for any use.

The length of time originally projected by NES in the decommissioning plan to do the reactor D&D was 15 months. All of the bidders for the D&D contract felt the time line was reasonable. The reactor containment building will be free released and will be available for nonradiological purposes if so desired.

This D&D activity did not address any non-NRC licensed facilities at the Neely Research Center. The Co-60 sources and gamma-irradiation hot cell is not being decommissioned. It is a state-licensed facility. In addition, none of the buildings, including the reactor containment, are currently scheduled for demolition. They will continue to be used.

Sincerely



Nolan E. Hertel, Ph.D., P.E.  
Director, Neely Nuclear Research Center  
Professor, Nuclear Engineering and Health Physics Programs

NEH/bc