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TRIGA reactor records6948211

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 13, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Columbia University
Title:	TRIGA reactor records
ID:	6948211
ID:	UA#0284
Date [inclusive]:	1967-1981
Physical Description:	2 linear feet 2 record cartons
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The collection consists of the TRIGA reactor records from 1967 to 1972 as well as correspondence with the US Atomic Energy Commission from 1978 to 1981.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); TRIGA reactor records; Box and Folder; University Archives, Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries.

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Biographical / Historical

As part of the Nuclear Science and Engineering program, a nuclear reactor was built for education and research purposes in the Engineering Terrace building. The application for construction was accepted by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) in 1963 and the building project was completed in April 1967 at a total cost of approximately one million dollars. However, the reactor was never fueled and was never radioactive. When Columbia applied to the AEC for an operating license, they received numerous petitions for intervention from residents and activists. Due to the prevailing climate at that time (student unrest and community opposition), Columbia asked AEC to place a hold on the application for the operating license. Columbia reapplied in summer 1969 but the application was denied by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) because of conflicting estimates of the amount of radioactive material that would be released in a postulated accident. In 1971 an Appeal Board

overturned the original ASLB decision and recommended issuance of a license to Columbia. In 1972 interveners filed a petition in the U.S. Court of Appeals for a review of the decision, which the Court later denied. The interveners then petitioned the Supreme Court for review of the Appeal Board decision. By 1974 Columbia was in the process of re-evaluating the Nuclear Science and Engineering program and the need for the nuclear reactor. With changes in upper management and financial considerations, the project was put on indefinite hold. The related instruments were donated to other institutions.

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Scope and Contents

This collection consists of correspondence, proposals, testimony, reports, legal decisions, press releases, product descriptions, petitions, and other materials relating to the TRIGA nuclear reactor that was to have been installed in Engineering Terrace in the late 1960s to early 1970s as a "teaching reactor" for use and study by students.

Correspondence includes that between the University's counsel and its president, between and among physics and other faculty, University administrators, including Robert K. Novick, Director of the Columbia Radiation Laboratory; the Atomic Energy Commission, and General Dynamics. Correspondence and testimony for and against the reactor's presence on the Morningside campus is scattered throughout the files.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one series: Series I: TRIGA reactor records, 1967-1981.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Full finding aid (JR) 2020-05-04

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Access

All administrative records of the University are restricted for 25 years from the date of creation.

Accruals

No additions are expected.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Additional materials related to the TRIGA reactor at Columbia can be found in [Central Files \(UA#0001\)](#) (find under Triga Research Reactor, Triga Atomic Reactor and/or Triga Reactor and Classified research file, Box 635) and in [Historical subject files \(UA#0002\)](#).

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Controlled Access Headings

- Nuclear energy -- Research
- Nuclear energy -- New York (State)
- Columbia University
- Columbia University. School of Engineering

Collection Inventory

Series I: TRIGA reactor records, 1967-1981

Title/Description	Instances
Correspondence	
1967-1968 <u>Physical Description:</u> 2 folders	box 1
1969-1970	box 1
1968-1970	box 1
1970-1971 <u>Physical Description:</u> 3 folders	box 1
1971-1972 <u>Physical Description:</u> 4 folders	box 1
1978-1981	box 2
Binder, including summary of TRIGA reactor project, 1969-1970	box 2
Annual Report to Congress of the Atomic Energy Commission, 1970	box 2
A comprehensive review of the Proposed Operation of the TRIGA-MARK II Nuclear Reactor, 1970 December 11	box 2
Fundamental Nuclear Research, 1970	box 2
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission on Trustees of Columbia, 1969-1970	box 2

Scope and Contents

(Transcripts of court hearings, Docket no. 50-208:
November 18, 19 and 20, 1969 and July 10, 1970.)

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