

A Sustainable Program on Environmental Impact Statements in Dealing with Radioactive and Special Materials

Executive Summary

This proposal request is for final continuation of a currently supported NRC educational grant for graduate study in the Environmental Impact Assessment involving nuclear materials. The first year of the educational program development was focused on the detailed design of 13 course modules that have an impact on the environment and human beings due to a nuclear project. The (current) second year is focused on pilot sessions and assessment of performance. The linkages between Second Life and University College servers are being tested. Further refinements are being made on the virtual (Areva) reactor, especially signage for the avatar tourists and a “tour buggy” which transports groups of avatars through the reactor buildings. In the third year, laboratory instructions (to be delivered to students online prior to initiating their several laboratory activities in Second Life) are to be further evaluated and will be modified as desired after these first offerings. In this final year of support, a fifth laboratory exercise is also being planned as an introduction to the (virtual) neutron howitzer; the USGS’s TRIGA reactor in Denver will be placed in Second Life, as will more details of the virtual in situ mining operation (Wyoming), and further refinements on the Areva control room will be completed.

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