

September 25, 2001

Dr. Jean-Jacques Van Binnebeek, Director
AV Nucléaire
Avenue du Roi, 157
B-1190 Bruxelles, Belgium

Dear Dr. Van Binnebeek:

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to send a representative to a 1-day fuel regulators meeting at U.S. NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, on October 25, 2001. The meeting date was selected to follow the Nuclear Safety Research Conference, which ends October 24, 2001. All the participants of the first fuel regulators meeting, held in October of 2000, expressed their belief that the meeting was very beneficial and encouraged follow-on meetings.

The purpose of this meeting is to exchange information and obtain feedback on issues related to regulation of nuclear fuel. This year's meeting will emphasize mixed-core and mixed-oxide fuel regulation. It will provide an opportunity for fuel regulators to discuss the everyday details of their processes and methods of implementation. The expected outcome is a better understanding of how other regulatory bodies handle mixed-core and mixed-oxide fuel issues, which will help all participants in their decisions on these nuclear fuel issues. A draft agenda is attached.

I hope that your staff responsible for regulation and licensing of nuclear fuel will be able to attend this meeting. Regulatory information exchange meetings like this are of important and I hope that we will have many more opportunities for such interactions. My point of contact for this meeting is Margaret Chatterton, who can be reached at 301-415-2889, or by e-mail at msc1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/
Jared S. Wermiel, Chief
Reactor Systems Branch
Division of Systems Safety and Analysis
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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FUEL REGULATORS MEETING

October 25, 2001

Purpose: To exchange information and obtain feedback on issues concerning the regulation and licensing of nuclear fuel with emphases on mixed-cores and mixed-oxide fuel.

AGENDA

- | | | |
|--------------|-----|--------------------------------------|
| 9:00 | I | Welcome and Introductions |
| 9:30 | II | Regulation of Mixed-Cores |
| 10:30-10:45 | | Break |
| 10:45- 12:00 | III | Regulation of Mixed-Cores continued |
| 12:00- 1:00 | | Lunch |
| 1:00- 2:15 | IV | Regulation of Mixed-Oxide Fuel |
| 2:15-2:30 | | Break |
| 2:30-3:30 | V | Other Topics, Wrap-up and Evaluation |

For each topic, there will be 1) a short introduction, 2) each participant addressing the topic from their agency's perspective, and 3) discussion of the topic. Each participant should be prepared to address the above topics from their agency's perspective.

Suggested questions to be addressed:

- II What type of approval is needed for mixed-cores?
 What is the depth of the submittal and the evaluation?
- III Are fuel penalties imposed for mixed-cores?
 How are such penalties determined?
- IV What type of approval is needed for mixed-oxide fuel?
 Are lead-test assemblies required?
 Is a specific environmental assessment required for mixed-oxide fuel?
- V What other fuel topics would be appropriate for similar meetings?
 How valuable was this meeting?