

January 16, 2003

Dr. José M. Conde  
Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear  
Justo Dorado 11  
28040 Madrid  
SPAIN

Dear Dr. Conde:

Last April 2002, Dr. Cecil Parks of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) attended the IAEA Technical Committee Meeting on the Requirements, Practices, and Developments in Burnup Credit Applications which was held at the Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear (CSN) in Madrid. From Dr. Parks' trip report and the presentation material made available at the meeting we learned of the Spanish program, involving both nuclear industry and the regulatory agency to obtain measured isotopic compositions on high-enrichment and high-burnup pressurized water reactor (PWR) fuel. Our review of the program indicates that the experimental results that will be obtained would be of value in our current efforts to better understand the uncertainties associated with the isotopic composition of high burnup spent fuel. We understand that at this time the data is restricted to program participants. We would like to explore the potential for the USNRC to cooperate with the CSN to have access to the data. We could hold the data as proprietary until such time as the program's results are made public. In return, the USNRC can have ORNL perform independent evaluation of your measured isotopic compositions on high-enrichment and high-burnup PWR fuel as well as comparison of measured data with the code predictions. We hope that this measured assay data would become publicly available for use by interested parties in validating their nuclear analysis codes for high burnup applications.

We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (301) 415-7499.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by F. Eltawila***

Farouk Eltawila, Director

Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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