

FOIA/PA REQUEST

From: uid no body <nobody@www.nrc.gov>
To: <foia@nrc.gov>
Date: Fri, Feb 10, 2006 1:47 PM
Subject: WWW Form Submission

Case No.: 2006-0110
Date Rec'd: 2-10-06
Specialist: Hammer's
Related Case: _____

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by

() on Friday, February 10, 2006 at 13:46:51

FirstName: David

LastName: Lochbaum

Company/Affiliation: Union of Concerned Scientists

Address1: 1707 H Street NW

Address2: Suite 600

City: Washington

State: DC

Zip: 20006

Country: United_States

Country-Other:

Email: dlochbaum@ucsusa.org

Phone: 202-331-5430

Desc: All records, including e-mails, draft reports, reports, status reports, etc., but excluding records of an administrative nature (e.g., travel authorizations, scheduling meetings, etc.) related to the research conducted at the Argonne National Laboratory on high-burnup reactor fuel. This research was cited in a letter dated January 24, 2006, from Carl Paperiello, NRC Director - Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, to Dr. Robert Rosner, Director - Argonne National Laboratory. In that letter, Mr. Paperiello indicated that the high-burnup reactor fuel research began in 1997 and was slated to run until 2008, with some \$18 million invested to date.

FeeCategory: Educational

Media Type:

FeeCategory_Description:

Expedite_ImminentThreatText:

Expedite_UrgencyToInformText:

Waiver_Purpose: UCS has an interest in reactor fuel performance, including high-burnup fuel. We would analyze the information obtained from the FOIA request to evaluate safety margins.

Waiver_ExtentToExtractAnalyze: As UCS's Dr. Ed Lyman did during the MOX proceeding, UCS will evaluate the high-burnup reactor fuel research results to determine any potential impact on safety margins.

Waiver_SpecificActivityQuals: As indicated in the response to Item 2 above, UCS will evaluate the results from the high-burnup reactor fuel research to determine impact on safety margins. Dr. Ed Lyman is conversant with fuel research and would be able to comprehend the information received in response to this FOIA request. If his analysis indicated the potential for safety margins to be adversely affected, UCS would employ means to call attention to the issue to seek its resolution. Those means might include a report detailing the nature of the potential safety margin impact, a legal intervention in an application by a licensee to use the high-burnup reactor fuel, testimony to Congress, etc. UCS, as a public interest group, generally prepares materials that are understandable to both technical and non-technical audiences.

Waiver_ImpactPublicUnderstanding: As with many nuclear power plant safety topics, the high-burnup reactor fuel issue is very complex, presenting a challenge to both understand its technical component and also to put the issue and its ramifications into plain English. UCS is proficient on both the technical and communication aspects of this issue. This proficiency was demonstrated when the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) retained Dr. Ed Lyman of the UCS staff in the MOX (mixed-oxide fuel) proceeding before the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Dr. Lyman demonstrated an ability to function as an expert witness on the technical contentions and an ability to communicate the implications to BREDL and other public stakeholders. UCS would bring that proficiency to the high-burnup reactor fuel research issue with similar expectations for assisting the public better understand the issue.

Waiver_NatureOfPublic: Depending on the means employed to pursue any concerns resulting from our evaluation of the records obtained from this FOIA, UCS would reach over 60,000 persons by including commentary in our newsletter titled Catalyst to our members, would reach an unknown but likely smaller number of persons by posting commentary on our website (www.ucsusa.org), would reach a smaller but focused number of persons by including a discussion in our Congressional testimony, and an even smaller but focused and key group of individuals if we intervened in a license application.

Waiver_MeansOfDissemination: As noted in the response to Item 5, UCS has a newsletter that goes out about three times each year to our 60,000-plus members, and we have a website that receives steady traffic. In addition, UCS is extensively quoted in the media, which assists our efforts to reach out and inform more of the general public.

Waiver_FreeToPublicOrFee: UCS sends our newsletter to our members. We do not charge explicitly for the newsletter but include it in the membership fee we encourage our members to send. We sometimes charge a fee for hard bound reports, particularly when multiple copies are requested. Such fees are rare and modest, intended to cover shipping and handling costs. All of the materials posted on our website (www.ucsusa.org) are available for free viewing and downloading. We almost always post PDF or HTML versions of hard bound reports to our website, so any one not wishing to pay the small fee mentioned above can still see the information.

Waiver_PrivateCommericalInterest: None.
