

March 11, 2016

Mr. Paul M. Whaley  
Associate Director  
Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory  
The University of Texas at Austin  
10100 Burnet Road  
Austin, Texas 78758

Dear Mr. Whaley,

This letter is in response to your letter dated February 5, 2016, Agencywide Document Access and Management System Accession No. ML16053A092. In your letter you state that the Department of Energy is storing irradiated fuel elements that were discharged from domestic and foreign reactors. You also state that a substantial set of elements in the inventory have relatively low burnup and might feasibly be placed in service at other reactor facilities. Finally, you state that this proposal seeks to define a process acceptable to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to support authorization for utilization of these fuel elements in research reactors that use (standard or conversion) 8.5 percent stainless clad TRIGA fuel.

We have reviewed your proposal and found that it discusses safety considerations and guidance documents that have been used to address previously used, low burnup fuel in research and test reactors. Applicants that intend on using low burnup fuel should submit, as appropriate, to the NRC an application for a license amendment, including a safety analysis and any required changes to the license and technical specifications.

If you any questions or require any additional information, please call me at 301-415-1127 or by electronic mail at [Alexander.Adams@nrc.gov](mailto:Alexander.Adams@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Alexander Adams, Jr., Chief  
Research and Test Reactors Licensing Branch  
Division of Policy and Rulemaking  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-602

March 11, 2016

Mr. Paul M. Whaley  
Associate Director  
Nuclear Engineering Teaching Laboratory  
The University of Texas at Austin  
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Division of Policy and Rulemaking  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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University of Texas

Docket No. 50-602

cc:

Governor's Budget  
and Policy Office  
PO Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Bureau of Radiation Control  
State of Texas  
1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, TX 78756

Dr. Gregory L. Fenves  
University of Texas at Austin Office of the President  
1100 Inner Campus Drive, G3400  
Austin, TX 78712-3400

Dr. Judith H Langlois  
The University of Texas at Austin  
Executive Vice President and Provost  
1 University Station, G1000  
Austin, TX 78712

Roger Mulder  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, TX 78711

Test, Research, and Training  
Reactor Newsletter  
University of Florida  
202 Nuclear Sciences Center  
Gainesville, FL 32611

Michael Krause, Reactor Supervisor  
The University of Texas at Austin  
1 University Station, R9000  
Austin, TX 78712