

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.

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
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 Number 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 electronic mail at 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

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC	PRLB R/F	RidsNrrDprProb	AAdams, NRR
RidsNrrDprPrlb	STraiforos, NRR	GMorlang, NRR	NParker, NRR
RidsNrrDpr			

ADAMS Accession No.: ML16070A211

OFFICE	NRR/DPR/PRLB	NRR/DPR/PRLB	NRR/DPR/PRLB	NRR/DPR/PRLB
NAME	STraiforos	NParker	AAdams	STraiforos
DATE	3/10/16	3/10/16	3/11/16	3/11/16

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

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