



## Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

June 21, 2017

Norma Garcia-Santos  
Office of Nuclear Material  
Safety and Safeguards  
Division of Spent Fuel Management  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Ms. Garcia-Santos:

The Department of Energy is pursuing an Accident Tolerant Fuel (ATF) program to support the development and use of new light water reactor fuel technology to enhance the performance of the reactor system in off-normal conditions. The Department has been directed by the U.S. Congress to work with the nuclear fuel vendors and utilities to insert into commercial U.S. reactors lead fuel rods (LFRs) or lead test assemblies (LTAs) of such technology by 2022. General Electric is one such partner and is aggressively working to develop and install high corrosion resistant ferritic steel, or FeCrAl, cladding. We understand that General Electric is beginning its official request for support in a Letter Authorization for FeCrAl cladding LTA shipping in the RAJ-II container. The Department supports General Electric's activities in this regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William McCaughey".

William McCaughey  
Acting Director, Office of Advanced  
Fuels Technologies (NE-42)  
Office of Nuclear Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy

