



HITACHI

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December 18, 2017

Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-001
Attn: Document Control Desk

Subject: Annual Statement of Non-availability of Federal Government Funding for Conversion from HEU to LEU for VNC Nuclear Test Reactor (NTR)

References: 1) 10 CFR 50.64 Limitations on the use of highly enriched uranium (HEU) in domestic non-power reactors
2) NRC License R-33, Docket 50-73

GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas, LLC., (GEH) operates the Nuclear Test Reactor (NTR) at the Vallecitos Nuclear Center in Sunol, California under the provisions of NRC License No. R-33. The NTR operates utilizing fully enriched U-Al alloy fuel at a maximum power of 100 kW.

In accordance with 10 CFR 50.64 (Reference 1), GEH is submitting the attached letter to demonstrate that DOE funding is not currently available for conversion of the NTR fuel.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 925-918-6074.

Sincerely,

Mark Leik, Manager
Regulatory Compliance
TML 17-005

Commitments: None

Attachment: Letter from Brian Waud – DOE NNSA to M. Leik - VNC, April 11, 2017

cc: D. Hardesty, NRC NRR



Department of Energy
National Nuclear Security Administration
Washington, DC 20585



APR 11, 2017

Mr. Mark Leik
Manager EHS,
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Mr. Leik:

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 50.64, *Limitations on the Use of Highly Enriched Uranium in Domestic Non-Power Reactors*, the Nuclear Test Reactor (NTR) at the Vallecitos Nuclear Center is required to send a letter annually to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission documenting if federal funds are available to convert to low-enriched uranium (LEU) fuel.

You are hereby notified that Department of Energy funding will not be available in FY2017 for conversion of the NTR to LEU fuel.

You will be notified in the event these circumstances change. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 287-6726.

Regards,

Brian Waud
Reactor Conversion Program Director
Office of Material Management & Minimization
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation

cc: Jeff Chamberlin, NA-231
Tracey L. Bishop, DOE-NE
Vic Pearson, DOE ID

