



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 2, 2018

Mr. B. Joel Burch, Vice President  
and General Manager  
BWXT Nuclear Operations  
Group, Inc.  
P.O. Box 785  
Lynchburg, VA 24505-0785

SUBJECT: LETTER OF APPRECIATION FOR THE TOUR OF THE RESEARCH TEST  
REACTOR FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY PROVIDED TO THE U.S. NUCLEAR  
REGULATORY COMMISSION ON AUGUST 21, 2018  
(EPID NO. L-2017-PMP-0014)

Dear Mr. Burch:

On August 21, 2018, 13 members of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Division of Licensing Projects, Research and Test Reactors Oversight Branch, and Research and Test Reactors Licensing Branch staff, participated in a tour of the BWXT Research Test Reactor Fuel Fabrication Facility in Lynchburg, Virginia. The purpose of the tour was to gain insights into both the existing research reactor plate fuel production process, as well as the fuel development work being conducted in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Material Management and Minimization, High Performance Research Reactor Conversion project.

The NRC staff gained important technical insights on this tour, and will be better informed with respect to future licensing actions involving research reactor fuel. Furthermore, the NRC staff recognized the level of effort expended by BWXT to provide this tour, and wish to express its appreciation to your staff: Mr. Van Mauney, Mr. David Miller, Mr. Scott Niedzialek, Mr. Chris Terry, Mr. Stephen Subosits, and Ms. Sandra Rice, and other BWXT staff, who provided both technical tour information as well as coordinated itinerary, schedule, and site access support.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Geoffrey Wertz at 301-415-0893, or by electronic mail to [Geoffrey.Wertz@nrc.gov](mailto:Geoffrey.Wertz@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mary Jane Ross-Lee, Deputy Division Director  
Division of Licensing Projects  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 70-27  
License No. SNM-42

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**\*concurrence via email**

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<b>NAME</b>	GWertz	NParker	AAdams	MJRoss-Lee
<b>DATE</b>	9/26/2018	9/26/2018	10/1/2018	10/2/2018

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