



**HITACHI**

**GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy**

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April 12, 2019

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,

Jeffrey Smyly  
Regulatory Compliance Manager

Commitments: None

Enclosure: Letter from Brian Waud – DOE NNSA, to J. Smyly - VNC, April 2, 2019

cc: D. Hardesty, NRC NRR

JS 19-004

**ENCLOSURE**

**Letter from Brian Waud – DOE NNSA, to J. Smyly - VNC, April 2, 2019**



Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Washington, DC 20585



April 2, 2019

Mr. Jeffrey Smyly  
Regulatory Compliance Manager  
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Mr. Smyly:

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 whether 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 FY2019 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: Christopher Landers, NA-231  
Mackenzie Gorham, DOE ID

