U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

8005090469

APPROVED BY GAO B-180225(R0362)

APPLICATION FOR LICENSE TO EXPORT NUCLEAR MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT (See InstruMENT MEDIENE)

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U.S. Department of Energy			U.S. Department of Energy				
1000 Independ	ence Ave	S.W.	Y-12				
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January 25, 1980

To:

Joel C. Haugen

SPM

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From:

James L. Snelgrove FAP/RERTR

Subject: Shipment of 19.75%-Enriched Uranium Metal to France and Germany

A key element of the Reduced Enrichment Research and Test Reactor (RERTR) program, managed by the Laboratory, is the Low-Power Whole-Core Demonstration in the Ford Nuclear Reactor (FNR) at the University of Michigan, scheduled to begin in Saptember, 1980. The Laboratory will procure the fuel elements needed for this demonstration, and will be responsible for supplying the uranium metal needed for their fabrication. The fuel elements will be procured from CERCA (France) and NUKEM (Germany), the only bidders responsive to the request for proposals issued by the Laboratory. Export licenses for the uranium metal and import licenses for the fabricated fuel elements must now be obtained. We assume that the uranium metal will be supplied under the terms of a no-cost lease agreement between the Department of Frergy and the Euratom Supply Agency, as is being done for irradiation test elements which we are procuring. The uranium metal for this procurement is now being processed at Y-12 and will be ready for shipment by the middle of March, 1980.

The Laboratory intends to procure 20 standard fuel elements from CERCA and 25 standard and 10 control fuel elements from NUKEM. Each standard fuel element will contain 0.167 kg (±2%) and each control fuel element will contain 0.084 kg (±2%), of 2350 in uranium enriched to 19.75 ± 0.2%. The Laboratory would provide CERCA with 32.5 kg of 19.75%-enriched uranium metal to produce fuel elements containing 16.9 kg of uranium. The large (92%) surplus is required by CERCA because there is not enough time to recover and reuse uranium from scrap during production. CERCA does not have its own recovery facility and normally contracts with another company for this service, making scrap recovery a lengthy process. In normal practice the surplus required for one order of fuel elements would come from a stockpile of uranium recovered from scrap from previous orders. However, this is the first order of 19.75%-enriched elements for CERCA, so no such stockpile now exists. The Laboratory would provide NUKEM with 27.0 kg of 19.75%-enriched uranium metal to produce fuel elements containing 25.4 kg of uranium. NUKEM does have a stockpile of uranium from previous fabrications from which to provide the major part of the fabrication surplus. Each fabricator expects unrecoverable fabrication losses of ~2%. In addition, ~0.1 kg of uranium will be contained in non-destructive examination standards to be retained by each fabricator. The quantities discussed are summarized below.

	Export		225	
	Company	U-Metal (kg)	235 _U (kg)	
	CERCA	32.5	6.419	
	NUKEM	27.0	5.333	
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Import

Company	Item	Contained U (kg)	Contained 235U
CERCA	20 Std. El.	16.9	3.340
CERCA	Scrap	15.2	2.992
NUKEM	25 Std. + 10 Ctl. El.	25.4	. 015

In order for CERCA and NUKEM to fabricate and deliver elements in time to start the demonstration in September, 1980, it will be necessary to ship the uranium as soon as processing has been completed at Y-12. This means that lease agreements, export licenses, and other documents must be finalized by the middle of March, 1980. Rapid issuance of these documents is vital for another, and possibly more important, reason. This particular fuel element procurement will probably be viewed by foreign fuel fabricators as a test of assurances given by the U.S. Government that the delays recently encountered in obtaining export licenses for highly-enriched uranium will not be encountered for low (<20%)-enriched uranium.

JLS/ej

cc: L. R. Dates

A. Travelli