

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

207 OLD MAIN BUILDING
UNIVERSITY PARK, PENNSYLVANIA 16802

Vice President for
Research and Graduate Studies

October 18, 1982

Area Code 814
865 6332

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety
Washington, D.C. 20555

Ref. Docket 70-113
License SNM-95

Gentlemen:

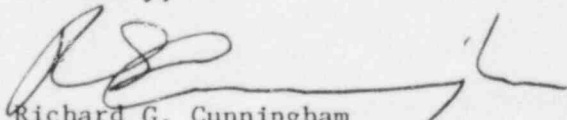
The Pennsylvania State University requests an amendment to special nuclear material license SNM-95 to allow the use of uranium dioxide fuel pellets enriched in U-235 in subcritical experiments with the Penn State Breazeale Reactor (PSBR). The UO_2 is to be obtained by disassembling several Pathfinder Superheat Fuel Elements, item 6.C of license SNM-5. The UO_2 pellets are to be sealed in small aluminum tubes, and these tubes will be used to construct a fuel element of the same dimensions as the standard TRIGA fuel element.

The purpose of the experiment is to determine the fuel and poison distribution in a simulated damaged reactor core. An explanation of the experiment, including the procedure for transporting the Pathfinder elements from the storage vault to the PSBR and the fabrication of the new fuel containers, is included as Attachment 1 to this application.

A separate request for amendment is being made to change the Technical Specifications of the PSBR (Reactor License R-2, Docket 50-5) to allow the use of fuel other than TRIGA elements in the reactor core. A copy of this request is included as Attachment 2 to this application.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and do not hesitate to contact this office if you require any further information.

Sincerely,


Richard G. Cunningham
Vice President for Research
and Graduate Studies

enc. Attachment 1
Attachment 2

cc: W. W. Pratt
S. H. Levine
R. W. Granlund
W. F. Witzig

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