



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Institute of Standards and Technology**  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-

February 27, 2020

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
ATTN: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Non-availability of fuel and funding to convert NBSR from HEU to LEU in 2020

Ref: NBSR Facility License TR-5, Docket 50-184

Sir/Madam:

The NBSR facility is expected to convert from highly enriched uranium (HEU) to low enriched uranium (LEU) fuel in accordance with 10 CFR 50.64. At this time, the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) have not developed and qualified a replacement LEU fuel acceptable to the Commission, and funds for such a conversion are not available. An updated LEU fuel development schedule released by NNSA proposes to convert the NBSR no earlier than 2025.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Newton  
Deputy Director  
NIST Center for Neutron Research

cc: Xiaosong Yin, NRR/DPR/PRLB

AD2D  
NRR

**NIST**