

April 17, 1992

Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Re: University of Virginia's B&W UVAR reactor,
Facility License R-66, Docket No. 50-52.
Update to Fuel Conversion Schedule of 03/23/92.

Gentleman:

We are pleased to submit a revision to the tentative LEU Fuel Conversion Schedule submitted to your office on March 23, 1992. Since that date, we were contacted by EG&G's Idaho office and notified that construction of LEU fuel elements for the UVAR has begun at B&W and is expected to be completed in December 1992. The date of conversion to LEU fuel is projected now for the beginning of 1993.

In addition, we were approached by DOE about the establishment of a schedule for shipment of Va.'s HEU spent-fuel elements to Savannah River, utilizing the Cintichem spent-fuel cask which DOE acquired. However, DOE informed us that a "bottleneck" may develop if the DOE Savannah River facility can't accept all the HEU fuel being shipped there by university research reactors. If this proves to be the case, DOE proposes to allow us to ship enough HEU fuel offsite to reduce the HEU inventory to below formula quantities.

As the conversion date draws closer, the U.Va. reactor staff will maintain ever closer contracts with the NRC staff, to coordinate a date for the issuance of an Order to Convert that is mutually agreeable. This order should be issued subject to: 1) LEU fuel availability, and 2) U.Va.'s HEU fuel on-site holdings being reduced sufficiently to preclude security upgrade ramifications. It is hoped that a period for simultaneous possession of both LEU and HEU fuel can be avoided, and if not, reduced to a minimum.

Sincerely,

Robert U. Mulder, Director
U.Va. Nuclear Reactor Facility

Albemarle

enclosed copy of letter

This is the 17th day of April, 1992
by Robert Mulder
(Name of person making acknowledgment)

cc: Mr. Donald Carlson, Safeguards Branch, USNRC, Washington
Mr. Alexander Adams, Non-Power Reactors, USNRC, Washington
U.S. NRC Regional Administrator, Region II, Atlanta, Ga.
Mr. Harry Prebble, Babcock and Wilcox, Lynchburg, Virginia

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My commission expires 4/13 1994

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UPDATED
HEU TO LEU FUEL CONVERSION SCHEDULE
FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA'S 2MW UVAR REACTOR

Submitted to:

Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Submitted by:

Robert U. Mulder
Director of U.Va. Reactor Facility
Department of Nuclear Engineering
and
Engineering Physics
University of Virginia
22902

April 1992

UVAR FUEL CONVERSION SCHEDULE

Milestones	Dates*
Availability of DOE conversion study funds	September 86
EG&G's New Fuel Element Drawing Approved by U.Va.	November 89
Submittal to the NRC of UVAR LEU SAR with an application to convert to LEU Fuel, by U.Va.	November 89
Submittal to the NRC of Response to NRC's Follow-up Questionnaire re: UVAR LEU SAR, by U.Va.	February 91
Fitting of "Dummy" LEU Elements in UVAR core gridplate	September 92
Notification Sent to NRC by U.Va. of UVAR LEU fuel availability	January 93
Issuance of NRC's "Order of Convert"	A February 93
Several HEU Spent Fuel Shipments by U.Va. to Savannah River	A + 1 mo.
Completion of HEU Fuel Shipments and Receipt of fresh LEU core	A + 2 mo.
Expected UVAR reactor downtime	1 mo.
Loading of LEU fuel in UVAR core	A + 2 mo.
Completion of Tech. Spec. required first LEU core parameter tests	A + 3 mo.
Report to NRC of UVAR LEU first core parameters, as per TS and SOP's	A + 12 mo.

A = Date of NRC's Order to Convert; this date is expected to be selected based both on the date of LEU fuel availability and the availability of a suitable spent-fuel shipping cask.

* If, despite best efforts, the milestones can't be met as indicated in this schedule, then the conversion of the UVAR will be delayed accordingly, and a revised schedule submitted to the NRC every March.