



UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING PHYSICS
NUCLEAR REACTOR FACILITY
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22901

September 9, 1988 Telephone: 804-924-7136

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C.
20555

Subject: Use of U.Va. CAVALIER reactor fuel in the UVAR pool
reactor and its bearing on the CAVALIER Dismantling Plan

Gentlemen:

The dismantling plan for the University of Virginia's CAVALIER 100 W Reactor (NRC Docket 50-396, License No. R-123) was submitted in early January of this year. Our understanding is that NRC review of the plan is underway and that approval awaits the resolution of several similar plans submitted ahead of ours. Therefore, a probable date for an NRC decision can not be established.

In light of this, we wish to inform the NRC that the CAVALIER reactor core has been unloaded and its fuel placed in our Reactor Facility's fuel storage room, as permitted by and in accordance with our current approved CAVALIER Standard Operating Procedures and the Reactor Facility's Security Plan. The core unloading step is described in the dismantling plan. Also stated in the plan is our intention to transfer to the UVAR license some CAVALIER elements for possible use in the UVAR. The UVAR is a 2 MW_{th} pool reactor (Facility License R-66, Docket No. 50-62) located in the same building as the smaller CAVALIER reactor which utilizes exactly the same fuel elements as the CAVALIER. As stated in the plan and recently verbally discussed with NRC officials, the fuel transfer is simply a matter of paperwork, and the fuel quantity permitted under the UVAR license is sufficient to accommodate all of the CAVALIER fuel.

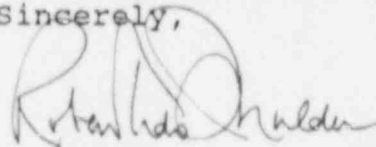
Present UVAR operational requirements will soon require a core change. We wish to constitute a smaller core and therefore find it advantageous to exchange the control rod fuel elements, which have significant burnup. Since the date of the NRC Show Cause Order to reduce fresh fuel inventories, we do not have fresh elements for the UVAR in fuel storage at our Facility.

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However, we have and can make use of some minimally irradiated CAVALIER elements. Our understanding is that we can transfer former CAVALIER fuel elements to the UVAR as needed, in conformity with past practice and without NRC approval, the dismantling plan notwithstanding. Please contact us immediately at (804) 924-7136 if this viewpoint does not meet with your agreement.

Sincerely,



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

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th
day of September, 1988
Witness my hand and official seal.

Delores E. Van Notary Public

My Commission Expires 9/17/89.

cc: Mr. Al Adams, Project Manager, USNRC, Washington D.C.
Regional Administrator, USNRC Region II, Atlanta, Ga.