GENERAL ATOMICS

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696-3128
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VIA EXPRESS MAIL SERVICE

Mr. Charles E. Gaskin
Licensing Section 1/Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: **Docket No. 70-734; SNM-696: Request for Deletion of GA's "Torrey Pines South" Land Area and Facilities Located thereon from SNM License**

Reference: SNM-696 License Amendment No. 40, dated November 4, 1997

Dear Mr. Gaskin:

As you are aware, General Atomics' (GA's) special nuclear material license (SNM-696) has been amended to authorize possession only, while its State of California broad scope radioactive materials license (Number 0145-37) has not. This is consistent with GA's current site wide decommissioning effort and future intent to request termination of its SNM license prior to requesting termination of its State of California radioactive materials license. Toward that end, it is important that GA's NRC license be amended to delete as "authorized places of use," certain portions of its site and/or facilities that have not and will not be used for activities requiring an NRC SNM license, but which have been, are being, and may continue to be, used in conducting activities which are authorized by GA's State of California radioactive materials license.

One such portion of GA's site is the area (including the buildings located thereon) referred to as the "Torrey Pines South" land area (TPS). This area is located on the southern most portion of GA's main site. Its location relative to the remainder of the main site is shown on Figure 1. There are several buildings located on TPS (See Figure 2). However, there are only three buildings in which activities authorized by GA's State of California radioactive materials license have been, are being, or are anticipated to be conducted. These three buildings are: 1) Building 10, where GA's Health Physics Laboratory is currently located; 2) Building ***33-1***, the former location of the Health Physics Laboratory; and 3) Building 33, where small quantities of byproduct material (e.g., tritium) may be used in the future. TPS and all of the other buildings located thereon are "non-impacted."

TPS has not been, and will not be, impacted by the use or storage of radioactive materials elsewhere on GA's site. In fact, all of the land areas directly abutting TPS consist of land areas that were non-impacted and have been previously released to unrestricted use, or are non-GA property. This can be more clearly and specifically defined by referring to the attached figures and the numbers denoting different points along the perimeter of TPS. The segment of the perimeter line extending from point 1 to point 2 to point 3 separates TPS from a non-impacted portion of GA's site that was released to unrestricted use in 1997 (Reference) and which is referred to as "Torrey Pines Central" (TPC). The segment of the perimeter extending from point 3 to point 4 and back to point 1 is a portion of the GA property line and separates TPS from non-GA property.

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GA hereby requests that the portion of its site referred to as "Torrey Pines South," and as shown on the attached figures, be deleted from its special nuclear material license number SNM-696. TPS and the activities performed thereon involving the use of radioactive materials and/or radiation machines will continue to be under the jurisdiction of GA's State of California broad scope radioactive materials license number 0145-37.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me at (858) 455-2823, or Ms. Laura Gonzales at (858) 455-2758.

Very Truly Yours,

Keith E. Asmussen

Dr. Keith E. Asmussen, Director
Licensing, Safety and Nuclear Compliance

Attachments: Figure 1 "GENERAL ATOMICS' MAIN SITE," and
Figure 2 "TORREY PINES SOUTH"

cc: Mr. Wayne Britz, U.S. NRC, Region IV
Mr. Dave Wesley, Radiologic Health Branch, DOHS, State of California