



April 24, 1988
IEL-1376

Mr. Marvin R. Peterson
Assistant Director
International Programs
Office of Governmental and Public Affairs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

XSNMO 2450
XMATO 340

Subject: Applications for Licenses to Export Special Nuclear Material
and Nuclear Grade Graphite to France

Dear Mr. Peterson:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has arranged through the French Commissariat a L'Energie Atomique (CEA) for a special irradiation test to be performed in the COMEDIE experimental loop of the Siloe reactor in Grenoble, France. This test, a part of the DOE's National Modular HTGR Program, involves the irradiation of a fuel test element and a reflector test element for purposes of studying fission product plateout/liftoff and washoff.

General Atomics is under contract with DOE to supply the small fuel and reflector test elements (one each) which are 6.1 cm in diameter and 40 cm and 47 cm in length, respectively. These test elements are fabricated from nuclear grade graphite, i.e., Great Lakes Carbon Company Grade H-451. The fuel test element will contain about 10 grams of U-235 in the form of uranium enriched to a maximum of 19.9 w/o. The chemical form of the uranium is uranium oxycarbide (UCO) which is physically in the form of ceramic coated fuel particles formed into bonded fuel compacts.

Accordingly, enclosed are two applications for export licenses to France; one for the special nuclear material (i.e., 10 grams U-235) and one for the nuclear grade graphite (i.e., 4 kg H-451 graphite) comprising the fuel and reflector test element bodies.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please call me at (619) 455-2823.

Very truly yours,

Keith E. Asmussen

Keith E. Asmussen, Manager
Licensing, Safety and
Nuclear Compliance

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PDR XPORT
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Enclosures: as stated