

**From:** [Downs, James](#)  
**To:** [Rogers, Danielle M](#)  
**Cc:** [Holly, Thomas C](#); [Harris, Tim](#); [nfs@listmgr.nrc.gov](mailto:nfs@listmgr.nrc.gov)  
**Subject:** ACCEPTANCE OF NFS REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN FORCE-ON-FORCE EXERCISE REQUIREMENTS DUE TO COVID-19  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 11:00:00 AM

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Dear Ms. Rogers:

By letter 21G-21-0145 dated September 14, 2021 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession No. ML21260A244), as supplemented by letter 21G-21-0155 dated October 14, 2021 (not publicly available due to the sensitive, security-related information contained within), Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS) requested approval for regulatory relief via an exemption from certain provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Section 73.46(b)(9). Specifically, due to the impacts of COVID-19 in Erwin, Tennessee, NFS requested an exemption from the requirements that pertain to the annual observation of a force-on-force (FOF) exercise by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the conduct of additional FOF exercises during the current 12-month period ending December 31, 2021.

The NRC staff has completed an acceptance review of the submittal and has identified no administrative omissions or deficiencies that would prevent proceeding with a detailed review. The submittal has been assigned Enterprise Project Identification Number (EPID) L-2021-SPR-0007. Please reference this EPID number and Docket Number 70-143 in all future correspondence associated with this request. Please note that the NRC staff's technical review of your submittal may identify issues that require additional information. Based on our preliminary evaluation and projection of current review schedules, we anticipate completing our formal review by November 15, 2021. This date could change depending on the findings of our technical review, urgent assignments, or other factors. We will promptly communicate any significant changes to this schedule. In addition, the NRC staff estimates that completing our review of the submittal will require approximately 20 staff hours which corresponds to about \$5,760.00 (\$288.00/hr).

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this email will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room, or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's ADAMS. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 301-415-7744, or via e-mail to: [James.Downs@nrc.gov](mailto:James.Downs@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

James Downs, P.E.  
Senior Project Manager  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
NMSS/DFM/FFLB