



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-6100

March 30, 2022

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Non-availability of fuel and funding to convert NBSR from HEU to LEU in 2021.

Ref: NBSR Facility License TR-5, Docket 50-184

Sir/Madam:

The NBSR facility is expected to convert from highly enriched uranium (HEU) to low enriched uranium (LEU) fuel in accordance with 10 CFR 50.64. At this time, the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) have not developed and qualified a replacement LEU fuel acceptable to the Commission, and funds for such a conversion are not available. An updated LEU fuel development schedule released by NNSA proposes to convert the NBSR no earlier than 2029.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas H. Newton". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Thomas H. Newton
Deputy Director
NIST Center for Neutron Research

cc: Patrick Boyle, NRR/DANU/UNPL

NIST