



# HITACHI

**GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy**

**Jeffrey Smyly**  
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M220054

March 25, 2022

Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-001  
Attn: Document Control Desk

**Subject:** Annual Statement of Non-availability of Federal Government Funding for Conversion from HEU to LEU for VNC Nuclear Test Reactor (NTR)

**References:** 1) 10 CFR 50.64 Limitations on the use of highly enriched uranium (HEU) in domestic non-power reactors  
2) NRC License R-33, Docket 50-73

GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas, LLC., (GEH) operates the Nuclear Test Reactor (NTR) at the Vallecitos Nuclear Center in Sunol, California under the provisions of NRC License No. R-33. The NTR operates utilizing fully enriched U-Al alloy fuel at a maximum power of 100 kW.

In accordance with 10 CFR 50.64 (Reference 1), GEH is submitting the attached letter to demonstrate that DOE funding is not currently available for conversion of the NTR fuel.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

**Jeff Smyly**

Digitally signed by Jeff Smyly  
DN: cn=Jeff Smyly, gn=Jeff Smyly, o=US  
United States, ou=US United States, ou=GEH  
ou=Vallecitos Nuclear Center Regulatory  
Compliance, e=jeffrey.smyly@ge.com  
Reason: I am approving this document  
Location:  
Date: 2022-03-24 11:26-07:00

Jeffrey Smyly  
Regulatory Compliance Manager

Enclosure: Letter from Brian Waud – DOE NNSA, to J. Smyly - VNC, March 24, 2022

cc: D. Hardesty, NRC NRR

JS 22-004

**ENCLOSURE**

**Letter from Brian Waud – DOE NNSA, to J. Smyly - VNC, March 24, 2022**



Department of Energy  
National Nuclear Security Administration  
Washington, DC 20585



March 24, 2022

Mr. Jeffrey Smyly  
Regulatory Compliance Manager  
Vallecitos Nuclear Center  
GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy  
6705 Vallecitos Road  
Sunol, CA 94586

Dear Mr. Smyly:

In accordance with 10 CFR Part 50.64, *Limitations on the Use of Highly Enriched Uranium in Domestic Non-Power Reactors*, the Nuclear Test Reactor (NTR) at the Vallecitos Nuclear Center is required to send a letter annually to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission documenting whether federal funds are available to convert to low-enriched uranium (LEU) fuel.

In accordance with 10 CFR 50.64, you are hereby notified that Department of Energy funding will not be available in fiscal year 2022 to complete the conversion of NTR to LEU fuel.

If you have any questions, please contact me at my telework number (240) 751-2377. I look forward to continuing discussions with you on the matter.

Sincerely,

*Brian Waud*

Brian Waud  
Reactor Conversion Team Lead  
Office of Material Management & Minimization  
Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation

cc: Christopher Landers, NA-231  
Vic Pearson, DOE-ID