



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 23, 2023

Timothy Knowles, Director
Safety and Safeguards
Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc.
1205 Banner Hill Road
Erwin, TN 37650

SUBJECT: REVISED SCHEDULE FOR U-METAL LICENSE AMENDMENT – ENTERPRISE
PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER L-2021-LLA-0213

Dear Timothy Knowles:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff received the application from Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS), dated November 18, 2021 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS] Accession No. ML21327A099), for a license amendment request (LAR) related to the uranium purification and conversion (U-metal) services proposed at the facility. The application was assigned Enterprise Project Identification Number L-2021-LLA-0213.

On January 21, 2022 (ML22014A421), the NRC staff sent NFS requests for supplemental information (RSIs). In response to that request, NFS transmitted letters dated February 24, 2022 (ML22066B004 and ML22069A315), to supplement the application. On March 25, 2022, the NRC staff completed the acceptance review and sent NFS a letter that stated completion of the formal review was anticipated by July 1, 2023.

Following a detailed technical review of the LAR and the associated Integrated Safety Analysis Summaries, the NRC staff issued requests for additional information (RAIs) by letter dated August 31, 2022 (ML22234A293), which requested a response within 60 days. NFS responded to the RAIs by letter dated January 31, 2023 (ML23041A235), 153 days after the RAIs were issued.

Additionally, there is an unresolved safety issue related to the treatment of natural phenomena hazards that was not adequately addressed by NFS in its responses to the RSIs or RAIs. The NRC staff has arranged for further discussion of the unresolved issue during a public meeting that is currently scheduled for June 29, 2023.

Based on the factors discussed above and our projection of current review schedules, we now anticipate completing our formal review of the U-metal LAR by October 2, 2023. This date could change depending on the resolution of the unresolved issue, findings of our technical review, urgent assignments, or other factors. We will promptly communicate any significant changes to this revised schedule.

In accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), or from the Publicly Available Records component of the NRC's ADAMS. The PDR is open by appointment only. You may submit your request to the PDR via e-mail at PDR.Resource@nrc.gov or call 1-800-397-4209 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. ADAMS is accessible from the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If you have any questions regarding this communication, please contact me at 301-415-7744 or by email at James.Downs@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,



Signed by Downs, James
on 06/23/23

James R. Downs, P.E.
Senior Project Manager
Fuel Facility Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No. 70-143
License No. SNM-124

cc: nfs@listmgr.nrc.gov

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DOCUMENT DATE: June 23, 2023

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ADAMS Accession Number: ML23172A245

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