



XSNM02644/03
11004516

November 16, 2005
IEL-3932

Via Facsimile followed by Overnight Delivery

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
ATTN: Office of International Programs
Export Controls and International Organizations
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738

Subject: Request to Extend Expiration Date of XSNM02644

References: NRC License XSNM02644 Authorizing General Atomics to Export TRIGA® Fuel Elements Containing [REDACTED] of Uranium, Enriched to [REDACTED] Maximum, to CERCA (France) For Consolidation Prior to Forwarding to CNESTEN in Morocco.

General Atomics (GA) has a commitment to supply fuel elements to the Kingdom of Morocco for the TRIGA® Mark II Research Reactor of the National Center for Energy, Sciences and Nuclear Technologies (i.e., the Centre National de L'Energie, des Sciences et des Techniques Nucleaires (CNESTEN)).

After GA completed the fabrication of the subject TRIGA® fuel elements, it closed its fuel fabrication operations in the U.S. and arranged for the fuel destined for Morocco to be shipped to Compagne Pour L'Etude et La Realisation De Combustibles Atomiques (CERCA) in France for interim storage and eventual forwarding to CNESTEN. In support of this arrangement, GA previously applied for and obtained an export license XSNM02644 authorizing the export of the subject TRIGA® fuel elements to France before forwarding to Morocco (Ref.).

Presently, the EURATOM Supply Agency has a request (MB/10) pending with the U.S. Department of Energy for approval to transfer the TRIGA® fuel elements from France (from CERCA) to the Government of Morocco (to CNESTEN). While GA is hopeful the TRIGA® fuel elements will be shipped to Morocco prior to the expiration date of XSNM02644, i.e., December 31, 2005, the schedule is challenging and there is the potential for delays beyond GA's control. Therefore, GA believes it prudent to hereby request NRC to extend the expiration date of XSNM02644 by one year to December 31, 2006.

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Pursuant to 10CFR170.31, enclosed, please find a GA check in the amount of \$300.00 to cover the fee associated with this request for a "minor amendment" to GA's active export license XSNM02644. If you have any questions about the above, please do not hesitate to contact me at (858) 455-2823 or at keith.asmussen@gat.com.

Very truly yours,

Keith E. Asmussen

Keith E. Asmussen, Ph.D., Director
Licensing, Safety and Nuclear Compliance

Enclosure: GA check in the amount of \$300.00

cc: Ms. Carlotta Coates, NRC, IP/ECIOS

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