WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Nuclear Radiation Center

November 7, 2016

50-027

Re: Response to NRC Generic Letter 2016-01

Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C 20555-0001

This letter is submitted by Washington State University (Facility License Number R-76) in response to NRC Generic Letter 2016-01: Monitoring of Neutron-Absorbing Materials in Spent Fuel Pools.

The referenced letter requests that non-power reactor licensees provide information in response to the following questions:

(1) Are neutron-absorbing materials used in a reactor pool, fuel storage pool, or other wet locations designed for the storage of reactor or spent fuel?

(2) If neutron-absorbing materials are used, is their use credited in the licensing or design basis (i.e., criticality safety analysis) for the storage of reactor fuel or spent fuel in a reactor pool, fuel storage pool, or other wet locations, as applicable?

(3) If neutron-absorbing materials are credited in the facility licensing or design basis for the storage of reactor or spent fuel in a reactor pool, fuel storage pool, or other wet locations, as applicable, then provide a description of, and technical basis for, any surveillance or monitoring programs used to confirm continued acceptable performance of the neutron-absorbing materials over time.

Washington State University's Response

Question (1)
Used reactor fuel is held in fuel storage racks which are submersed in a section of the reactor pool which has been designated as a storage area. The fuel storage racks sit at approximately 9 – 12 feet from the reactor. There are no neutron-absorbing materials used in the reactor pool fuel storage area. The geometry of the fuel storage racks is sufficient to maintain an adequate margin of safety to protect against criticality in the storage racks. Criticality analysis is documented in Appendix B of the WSU Safety Analysis Report which was submitted to the U.S. NRC in 2008. Please refer to ADAMS reference number ML082380266.

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Questions 2 and 3 are not applicable as Washington State University does not use neutron-absorbing materials as part of fuel storage.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 7 November, 2016

Donald Wall

Donald Wall, Ph.D.
Director