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Chairman Kristine L. Svinicki
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Mail Stop O-16B33
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your message from

your reference

our reference

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SCK•CEN/35398262
2019-34_NMS-SVdB

2019-10-03

Reaction to the false statements in the CURIUM petition opposing the IRE export license request

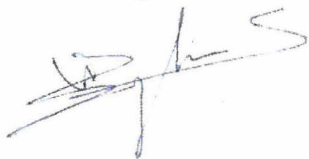
Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

It is with great disbelief and concern that the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre SCK•CEN has learned that CURIUM LLC wrongly states in its petition for a hearing regarding the export license request of IRE (Docket No. 110-06361), dated September 13, 2019, that our BR2 reactor was recently fueled with Russian fuel. The statement was signed by Roy Brown (VP of Government Affairs and Strategic Alliances at CURIUM LLC.). The lack of verification effort put into this statement, which would have been easy to prove false, obviously casts serious doubt on the level of rigor which went into drawing up the petition.

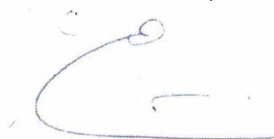
Although we fail to understand the relevance to claim that BR2 is using Russian (HEU) fuel, quod non, in a petition opposing IRE's export license request, it is our concern that such a statement could cast doubts on the long standing and fruitful collaboration of SCK•CEN and more broadly Belgium with the United States, on our shared commitment to minimize the use of HEU when technically and economically feasible and on our commitment to assist other research reactors in the United States and in Europe to convert to LEU in a timely manner, while always giving appropriate priority to the security of medical radioisotopes supply to the United States, Europe and the world. We are furthermore concerned the false statement could potentially negatively impact any future export license request we expect to submit to fuel the BR2 reactor as we complete our conversion program. SCK•CEN therefore has also duly informed the Belgian government of the erroneous claims in the petition.

We would thus like the official record to show that BR2 is the only nuclear reactor in the Mo-99 production fleet for CURIUM and IRE, that is currently and has always been fueled with US-origin fissile materials and US and European produced fuel assemblies since its first criticality in 1962. SCK•CEN has been, is and will continue to be committed to put the patients first by helping to secure the global supply of medical radioisotopes, as we consistently have done in the past, even in priority to our own research activities.

Yours sincerely,



Sven Van den Berghe
NMS Institute Director



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Origin:
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Contact: +3214332945

To : US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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20555 WASHINGTON District of Columbia
United States of America

US-DCA-DCA

Day Time

Pce/Shpt Weight Piece
0,3 kg 1/1

Ref: NNMS0100 - Kirsten Huysma
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20555 WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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