

March 14, 1991

Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555
Attn: Mr. Thomas E. Murley

DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR ENGINEERING
& ENGINEERING PHYSICS

University of Virginia
Reactor Facility
Charlottesville, VA 22903-2442
804-924-7136 FAX 804-982-2634

Re: University of Virginia's 2 MWth UVAR reactor,
Facility License R-66, Docket No. 50-62,
Annually Updated Fuel Conversion Schedule.

Gentlemen:

In November 1989, the University of Virginia Reactor Facility submitted to the NRC an application to convert the UVAR reactor to LEU fuel. The submittal included an LEU SAR and a tentative conversion schedule. To meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.64(c)(2), this conversion schedule is being updated now (please see the enclosure).

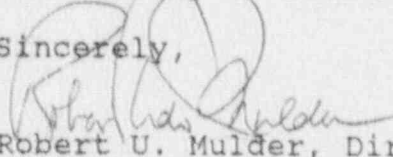
In early 1990, the U.Va. Reactor Facility received verbal communication from EG&G's Idaho office to the effect that LEU fuel elements for the UVAR reactor would be manufactured only after September or October of 1991, due to budgetary constraints. The consequent delay in the conversion will not adversely affect reactor operations, for sufficient HEU fuel elements remain onsite and in storage at B&W, Lynchburg, VA..

The date of conversion to LEU fuel is projected for the end of 1991, or beginning of 1992. It is noted that this still tentative date is subject to the availability of a suitable spent-fuel shipping cask for offsite shipment of all HEU fuel, as well to no further delays in the manufacture of the first UVAR LEU core. As the conversion date draws closer, the U.Va. reactor staff will maintain even closer contacts with the NRC, to coordinate a date that is mutually agreeable. The order to convert should be issued only when it is certain that U.Va.'s HEU fuel can be shipped. It is hoped that a period for simultaneous possession of both LEU and HEU fuel can be avoided, to preclude security ramifications due to excessive decay of fission products.

I, County of Aberdeen
Commonwealth of Virginia

hereby certify that the attached document is a true and
exact copy of a letter presented before
(Type of document)

Sincerely,


Robert U. Mulder, Director
U.Va. Nuclear Reactor Facility

this 14th day of March, 1991
by Robert Mulder

cc: US NRC Document Control Desk, Washington D.C.
Mr. Marvin Mendonca, NRC Project Manager, Wash. D.C.
Regional Administrator, USNRC Region II, Atlanta, Georgia
Mr. Keith Brown, Div. of University Programs, DOE

My commission expires 2/28, 1994

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ANNUALLY UPDATED
HEU TO LEU FUEL CONVERSION SCHEDULE
FOR THE
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA'S 2MW UVAR REACTOR

Submitted to:

Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555
Attn: Mr. Thomas E. Murley

Submitted by:

Robert U. Mulder
Director of U. Va. Reactor Facility
Department of Nuclear Engineering
and
Engineering Physics
University of Virginia
22903

March 1991

UVAR FUEL CONVERSION SCHEDULE

Milestones	Dates ^a
=====	=====
Availability of DOE conversion study funds	September 86
EG&G's New Fuel Element Drawing Approved by U.Va.	November 89
Submittal to the NRC of UVAR LEU SAR with an application to convert to LEU Fuel, by U.Va.	November 89
Submittal to the NRC of Response to NRC's Follow-up Questionnaire re: UVAR LEU SAR, by U.Va.	February 91
Fitting of Dummy LEU Element(s) in UVAR core gridplate	July 91
Notification Sent to NRC by U.Va. of UVAR LEU fuel availability	November 91
Issuance of NRC's "Order of Convert"	A (December 91?)
Several HEU Spent Fuel Shipments by U.Va. to Savannah River	A + 1 mo.
Completion of HEU Fuel Shipments and Receipt of fresh LEU core	A + 2 mo.
Expected UVAR reactor downtime	1 mo.
Loading of LEU fuel in UVAR core	A + 2 mo.
Completion of Tech. Spec. required first LEU core parameter tests	A + 3 mo.
Report to NRC of UVAR LEU first core parameters, as per TS and SOP's	A + 12 mo.

A = Date of NRC's Order to Convert; this date is expected to be selected based both on the date of LEU fuel availability and the availability of a suitable spent-fuel shipping cask.

* If, despite best efforts, the milestones can't be met as indicated in this schedule, then the conversion of the UVAR will be delayed accordingly, and a revised schedule submitted to the NRC.