



Washington State University

Nuclear Radiation Center

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Thursday, March 8, 1996

Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Ref: Docket 50-27

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.64(C)(2), Washington State University hereby officially notifies the Commission that funds for the actual conversion of the WSU reactor from HEU to LEU will not be available during fiscal year 1996. However, Washington State University did receive a grant (No. DE-FG02-92ER75748) from the DOE which provided \$106,094.00 for the first year (August 16, 1992 through August 14, 1993) of a two year project to accomplish the safety analysis phase of the conversion. We have partially completed the process of doing the neutronics calculations necessary to write the Safety Analysis Report for the low enriched uranium replacement fuel.

The DOE requested Washington State University to apply for several no fund extensions to the first year grant. Dr. Larry Barker of DOE had assured us that the DOE planned to fund the second year of our proposed study for the safety analysis report (SAR) when DOE funds became available. Harry Young at the DOE called me Mar. 8, 1995 to inform us that DOE did not have the funds available to complete the SAR study or to make the conversion. I called DOE again this year. I was referred to Norton Haberman at (301) 903-4321. He said that there were still no funds available to make the conversion and that he would send WSU an official letter confirming this situation.

I think that there are other serious problems, currently unresolved, associated with the conversion of our reactor. The State of Idaho has been fighting the acceptance of more spent fuel. I am unsure as to how the current situation affects irradiated, university reactor fuel. We are not sure the available fuel shipping cask will handle the four-rod fuel clusters that we use.

Washington State University will notify the Commission should circumstances change and will submit the required certification letter for fiscal year 1997 by May 27, 1997 or the required conversion proposal.

Sincerely,

Gerald E. Tripard
Director

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