



## OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

100 Radiation Center, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-5903  
Telephone 541-737-2341 Fax 541-737-0480

March 25, 1996

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

Reference: Oregon State University TRIGA Reactor (OSTR)  
Docket No. 50-243, License No. R-106  
USNRC Regulation 10 CFR 50.64(c)(2)

Subject: Proposal submitted in response to the Commission's regulations requiring conversion of the OSTR from high enriched uranium (HEU) fuel to low enriched uranium (LEU) fuel.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the Commission's regulation contained in 10 CFR 50.64(c)(2), Oregon State University (OSU) hereby submits a proposal describing our current efforts relative to converting the OSTR from HEU fuel to LEU fuel. As described in previous correspondence, OSU received funding for the preparation of an application for authorization to convert to LEU starting on June 15, 1992. The original contract was funded until December 14, 1993, but this was later extended through June 14, 1994.

As a direct result of our analysis, a number of difficulties were discovered with respect to the suitability of the potential replacement fuel. After several discussions with the fuel manufacturer, the USNRC and the USDOE a solution to the technical and regulatory difficulties was found. Therefore, on May 6, 1994, OSU submitted a proposal to the USDOE for funding to continue the work towards the preparation of the safety analysis for conversion of the OSTR to LEU. No official response to this proposal was ever received. However, each year since then we have been informed that there is insufficient funding to continue the effort towards refueling our TRIGA reactor. (See attached letter for this year's notification.)

In conclusion, the status of the conversion effort of the OSTR is that the analytical work is more than half completed, but that all progress has currently ceased due to the unavailability of funding. Therefore, it is our proposal to take no further action regarding the OSTR fuel conversion at this time.

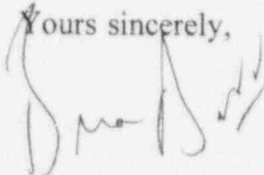
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If there are questions regarding our current activities under the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 50.64, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,  


Brian Dodd, Ph.D.  
Director

dd/nrc/heu-leu.let

Attachment

cc: Al Adams, Senior Project Manager, Non-Power Reactors and Decommissioning Projects  
Directorate, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, M.S. 0-11-B-20, Washington, D.C.  
20555  
Regional Administrator, USNRC, Region IV, 611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400,  
Arlington, TX 76011-8064  
Isamu Aoki, U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office, 785 DOE Place  
MS 1220, Idaho Falls, ID 83401-1563  
Oregon Department of Energy, 625 Marion Street, NE, Salem, Oregon 97310, ATTN:  
David Stewart-Smith  
George H. Keller, Vice Provost for Research & International Programs, Oregon State  
University  
S. E. Binney, Chairman, Reactor Operations Committee  
J. F. Higginbotham, Reactor Administrator  
A. D. Hall, Reactor Supervisor  
D. S. Pratt, Senior Health Physicist



**Department of Energy**  
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

March 14, 1996



Dr. Brian Dodd  
Radiation Center  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

Dear Dr. Dodd:

In accordance with 10 CRF Part 50.64, "Limitations on the Use of Highly Enriched Uranium in Domestic Non-Power Reactors," you are hereby notified that Federal funding for conversion of your reactor to low enrichment uranium fuel will not be available during Fiscal Year 1996.

You will be notified in the event these circumstances change.

Sincerely,

Dr. Norton Haberman  
Senior Technical Advisor  
Office of Nuclear Energy,  
Science and Technology

