



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 24, 2020

Ms. Janet R. Schlueter, Senior Director
Fuel and Radiation Safety
Nuclear Generation Division
Nuclear Energy Institute
1201 F Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20004-1218

**SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION GUIDANCE ON COVID-19
RELATED REQUESTS FOR REGULATORY RELIEF FOR FUEL CYCLE
FACILITIES**

Dear Ms. Schlueter:

On January 31, 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19. On March 11, 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recognizes that during the current COVID-19 PHE, licensees may experience challenges in meeting certain regulatory requirements. As we navigate this unprecedented time, the NRC continues to respond to regulatory relief requests in a manner that demonstrates our commitment to following the NRC's Principles of Good Regulation (independence, openness, efficiency, clarity, and reliability) while performing our mission. In keeping with these principles, the NRC has taken several steps to provide the fuel cycle industry with the information to assist in navigating regulatory challenges that may occur during the pandemic.

On April 7, 2020, John Lubinski, Director of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, issued a letter to all NRC Licensees authorized to possess byproduct, source, and special nuclear material regarding regulatory relief during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Public Health Emergency (ADAMS Accession No. ML20094G166). This letter outlines some methods available to licensee for obtaining relief from regulatory requirements. These methods fall broadly into different categories which include exemptions from regulatory requirements, amendments to license conditions, or technical specifications, and enforcement discretion.

To provide the transparency, clarity, and efficiency that is especially needed by licensees and the public during this time, the NRC staff has prepared a document entitled "Temporary Staff Guidance – Fuel Facility Regulatory Relief Requests Related to COVID-19" TSG-DFM-2020-01, (ADAMS Accession No. ML20108E911), available at <https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/covid-19/materials/fuel-cycle.html>. This document provides staff guidance on the basic framework for processing COVID-19 related requests for regulatory relief at fuel facilities. The guidance contains information on the process that will be followed in response to fuel cycle facility requests for relief as well as the information that the staff will request of licensees in order to evaluate licensee requests for relief.

These procedures are intended to enhance the efficiency of NRC staff in responding to the needs of licensees and the public. The internal staff guidance is publicly available and licensees may choose to review the guidance when preparing relief requests.

If you have any further questions about this matter, please contact Mr. James Downs or Mr. Kevin Ramsey of my staff. Their contact information is:

Mr. James Downs: e-mail: James.Downs@nrc.gov
telephone: 301-415-7744

Mr. Kevin Ramsey: e-mail: Kevin.Ramsey@nrc.gov
telephone: 301-415-7506

Sincerely,

Andrea L. Kock, Director
Division of Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:
List of Addressees

cc: Those on the enclosed list

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION GUIDANCE ON COVID-19
RELATED REQUESTS FOR REGULATORY RELIEF FOR FUEL CYCLE
FACILITIES CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Dated: April 24, 2020

DISTRIBUTION:

JLubinski, NMSS
DTiktinsky, NMSS

RLewis, NMSS
KRamsey, NMSS

AKock, NMSS
JZimmerman, NMSS

CRegan, NMSS
JDowns, NMSS

ADAMS Accession Number: ML20108F636

***via e-mail**

OFFICE	NMSS/DFM/FFLB/PM	NMSS/DFM/FFLB/LA	NMSS/DFM/FFLB/BC	NMSS/DFM/DD
NAME	DTiktinsky*	E. Lee*	JZimmerman*	AKock*
DATE	04/23/2020	04/20/20	04/23/2020	04/24/2020

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LIST OF FUEL FACILITY ADDRESSEES

BWXT Nuclear Operations Group, Inc.

Docket No. 70-27

License No. SNM-42

Mr. Chris Terry, Manager
Licensing and Safety Analysis
BWXT Nuclear Operations Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 785
Lynchburg, VA 24505-0785
e-mail: cterry@bwxt.com

Centrus Energy Corp.

Docket Nos. 70-7004; 70-7003

License No. SNM-2011; SNM-7003

Mr. Steven A. Toelle
Regulatory Affairs Director
Centrus Energy, Corp. Lead Cascade
and American Centrifuge Plant
Two Democracy Center, 6901 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817
toellest@centrusenergy.com

Ms. Kelly L. Wiehle, Regulatory Manager
American Centrifuge Operating, LLC
P.O. Box 628
Mail Stop 7560
3930 U.S. 23 South
Piketon, Ohio 45661
e-mail: wiehlekl@centrusenergy.com

Framatome

Docket No. 07001257

License No. SNM-1227

Mr. Timothy Tate
Environmental, Health, Safety
and Licensing Manager
Framatome, Inc.
2101 Horn Rapids Road
Richland WA 99354-5102
e-mail: Timothy.Tate@framatome.com

Enclosure

GLE

Docket No.: 70-7016,
License No.: SNM-2019

Ms. Pat Jenny, Security Manager
General Electric-Hitachi
Global Laser Enrichment, LLC
P.O. Box 780
3901 Castle Hayne Road
Wilmington, NC 28402
e-mail: Pat.Jenny@ge.com

GNF-A

Docket No. 70-1113
License No. SNM-1097

Mr. Scott P. Murray, Licensing Manager
Global Nuclear Fuel - America
3901 Castle Hayne Road
P.O. Box 780
Wilmington, NC 28402
e-mail: scott.murray@ge.com

Honeywell

Docket No. 40-3392
License No. SUB-526

Mr. Sean Patterson
Regulatory Affairs Manager
Honeywell Metropolis Works
P.O. Box 430
2768 North US 45 Road
Metropolis, IL 62960
e-mail: Sean.Patterson@Honeywell.com

NFS

Docket No. 70-143
License No. SNM-124

Ms. Amaryl Morie
Licensing Manager
Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc.
1205 Banner Hill Road
Erwin, TN 37650
e-mail: aamorie@nuclearfuelservices.com

Urenco-LES

Docket No. 70-3103

License No. SNM-2010

Mr. Wyatt Padgett
Licensing and Performance
Assessment Manager
Louisiana Energy Services, LLC
P.O. Box 1789
Eunice, NM 88231
e-mail: Wyatt.Padgett@urencocom

Vallecitos

Docket No.: 70-00754

License No.: SNM-960

Mr. Matthew Feyrer
Site Manager
Vallecitos Nuclear Center
6705 Vallecitos Road
Sunol, CA 94586
e-mail: Matt.Feyrer@ge.com

Westinghouse

Docket No.: 70-1151

License No.: SNM-1107

Ms. Amanda J. Spalding
Acting Licensing Manager
Westinghouse Columbia Fuel Fabrication
5801 Bluff Road Hopkins,
South Carolina 29061 -9121 USA
e-mail: spaldiaj@westinghouse.com