



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

March 11, 1997

Mr. Leonard J. Callan  
Executive Director for Operations  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint North  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Mr. Callan:

Pursuant to the January 15, 1997, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, we are requesting technical assistance in the evaluation of the design, fabrication, and installation of a liner for our spent fuel canal (pool) at the High Flux Beam Reactor located at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, New York. The spent fuel storage pool has recently been identified as the most likely source of tritium contamination in local ground water. The contamination is currently on site and is at a level in some cases of up to 32 times the Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard. We feel that it is prudent to install a liner in the pool. Your expertise with spent fuel pool liners and associated leakage detection systems could assist us.

A suggested scope of work is enclosed. The scope of work could easily be revised in response to your comments. The DOE contact for this work is Mr. Robert Lange, who can be reached at (301) 903-2915.

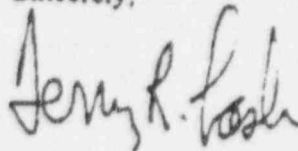
The MOU contains provisions for notification to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and for preparation of a specific budget when significant work is requested. We do not consider this request for technical assistance to reach the level that requires OMB notification. We are, however, prepared to fund all reasonable costs associated with your review. Please provide a budget estimate for the enclosed scope of work.

This request has been coordinated with DOE's Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health who is identified in the MOU as the initial point of contact for communication relating to carrying out the provisions of the MOU.

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Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (202) 586-6450 or Mr. Robert Lange.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Terry R. Lash". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Terry" and last name "Lash" being clearly distinguishable.

Terry R. Lash, Director  
Office of Nuclear Energy,  
Science and Technology

Enclosure

Enclosure

## SCOPE OF WORK

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) REGARDING THE DESIGN, FABRICATION, AND INSTALLATION OF A LINER FOR THE HIGH FLUX BEAM REACTOR (HFBR) SPENT FUEL CANAL (POOL)

1. Meet with DOE/Brookhaven National Laboratory personnel at HFBR. Review scope of work, tour facility, and become familiar with current issues. Conduct initial meeting in March 1997. Conduct similar meetings in the future as necessary.
2. Review and comment on the Liner and the Leakage Detection System conceptual design report. Initiate review coincident with issuance of the draft conceptual design report by April 19, 1997. Complete a report of NRC's technical assessment by June 1, 1997.
3. Review and comment on the Liner and the Leakage Detection System final design report. Initiate review coincident with the issuance of the draft final design report by August 15, 1997. Complete a report of NRC's technical assessment by September 15, 1997.
4. Perform on-site inspections and assessments as necessary during installation of the Liner and the Leakage Detection System. Installation is being scheduled for November 1, 1997, through March 1, 1998.
5. Review and comment on the Liner and the Leakage Detection System turnover to operations report. Initiate review by March 1, 1998. Complete a report of NRC's technical assessment by March 15, 1998.
6. Provide additional technical assistance as mutually agreed upon and as reflected in a revision to this scope of work.