RFC 2023 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 35th Annual Regulatory Information Conference



**MARCH 14-16, 2023** 

Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center Rockville, Maryland





# **New Fuels Licensing Readiness**

Regulatory Information Conference Session T2

March 14, 2023

#### **PANELISTS:**

JOSEPH DONOGHUE, U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION CHRIS VAN WERT, U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WILLIAM MCCAUGHEY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY JOHNATHAN CHAVERS, SOUTHERN NUCLEAR COMPANY, LLC DR. DIDIER JACQUEMAIN, NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY





### What Is Accident Tolerant Fuel (ATF)?



Makes an existing commercial nuclear reactor more resistant to nuclear incidents.



Lowers the cost of electricity over the licensed lifetime of an existing commercial nuclear reactor.





## **Engagement and Collaboration**

### **Domestic:**

- Routine Stakeholder **Engagements:** 
  - **EPRI CRAFT\* Observer**
  - **DOE Projects and Research**
  - **Conferences and Workshops**

### International:

- **ATF Testing and Simulation** (ATF-TS) with the International **Atomic Energy Agency**
- International Research and Collaboration



\*CRAFT: Collaborative Research on Advanced Fuel Technologies for Light-Water Reactors.





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# **Recent ATF Accomplishments**

Research Information
Letter 2021-13:

"Interpretation of
Research on Fuel
Fragmentation,
Relocation, and Dispersal
at High Burnup"

Numerous Workshops and Stakeholder Engagements throughout the Past Year Communication to
Industry: "Scheduling
Expectations Regarding
the Licensing of Accident
Tolerant, Increased
Enrichment, and Higher
Burnup Fuels"

"Regulatory Framework
Applicability Assessment
and Licensing Pathway
Diagram for the Licensing
of ATF-Concept, Higher
Burnup, and Increased
Enrichment Fuels"

Licensing Reviews: Lead
Test Assemblies, Topical
Reports, License
Amendment Requests,
and Certificates of
Compliance

Commission Meetings on
"Overview of ATF
Activities" and
"Overview of Advanced
Reactor Fuel Activities"





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### **Ongoing Efforts**

Regulatory Guide 1.183:
"Alternative Radiological
Source Terms for
Evaluating Design Basis
Accidents at Nuclear
Power Reactors,"
Revisions 1 and 2

SRM-SECY-21-0109:
"Rulemaking Plan on Use of Increased Enrichment of Conventional and Accident Tolerant Fuel Designs for Light-Water Reactors"

Summary: "Scheduling
Information for the
Licensing of Accident
Tolerant, Higher Burnup,
and Increased
Enrichment Fuels"

Regulatory Issue

Environmental
Evaluation of ATF with
Increased Enrichment
and Higher Burnup

"Roadmap to Readiness"

Development

Research Efforts:
Framework for
Irradiation Experiments
(FIDES), Studsvik
Cladding Integrity Project
(SCIP), and QUENCH-ATF





### **Additional ATF Information**

Contact: Accident Tolerant Fuel@nrc.gov

Website: www.nrc.gov/reactors/atf.html

Public Meeting Schedule: <a href="https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg">https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg</a>

