



**Department of Energy**  
Savannah River Operations Office  
P.O. Box A  
Aiken, South Carolina 29802

**JUN 22 2015**

Ms. Sylvia Kotting-Uhl, MP – German Bundestag  
German Bundestag  
11011 Berlin  
Germany

Dear Mrs. Kotting-Uhl:

SUBJECT: Processing and Long-Term Storage of AVR and THTR Spent Fuel at Savannah River Site in South Carolina. (Your letter, 04/21/15)

Thank you for your letter and I apologize for the delay in responding. The United States Department of Energy (DOE) is currently developing an Environmental Assessment (EA), pursuant to our National Environmental Policy Act, regarding the potential acceptance and disposition of the pebble bed reactor fuels used in Germany's AVR and THTR reactors.

Please allow me to express our appreciation of your interest for a copy of the draft EA. Currently, the draft EA is scheduled for public release, for review and comment this summer 2015. It will be available on the internet via a web address not yet determined. The specifics of the web address will be provided via a Federal Register Notice including the date and location of a public meeting to receive comments on the draft document. Once this information becomes available, I will share it with you for your information.

In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to mention that, the issue concerning the classification of spent fuel from AVR and THTR reactors is a matter for the German government to determine in accordance with its laws. In a recent letter to DOE from the German government and as indicated in the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety's 5th Joint Convention Country Report to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Federal Government of Germany has affirmed that AVR and THTR reactors are not classified as commercial nuclear reactors. The AVR and THTR reactors were a progression for high temperature reactor and high temperature reactor fuel technology, that if proven successful and licensable would have led to the eventual commercialization of the HTGR reactor concept.

Again thank you for your interest and willingness to review the draft EA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maxcine Maxted".

Maxcine Maxted  
EA Document Control Manager  
Nuclear Materials Programs Division

NMPD-15-0065

Ms. Kotting-Uhl

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