



January 21, 2021

Freedom of Information Officer
NNSA Service Center
Office of Public Affairs
P.O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, NM 87185-5400

FOIA Request for MOU between National Nuclear Security Administration and AECL

To Whom it Concerns:

This is a request filed under the Freedom of Information Act, as amended. Per applicable law and Department of Energy regulations, I anticipate a response to this request within 20 days. If the requested documents are not provided within 20 days please provide the reason why and give a date by which they will be provided to me.

This request is being filed on behalf of Savannah River Site Watch (SRS Watch), a corporation duly registered with the State of South Carolina and a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. In addition to many FOIAs filed on behalf of SRS Watch, I have filed many FOIA requests with DOE on behalf of other non-profit organizations, including Friends of the Earth, the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, Greenpeace and the Nuclear Control Institute.

I request that any fees that may be associated with this request be waived. The information obtained in response to this request will be used solely for non-profit purposes in South Carolina and the United States and Canada. The information will contribute to the public's understanding of the manner in which DOE conducts its business and will specifically be used to inform the public about plans being considered to import nuclear materials from Canada to the US. The information obtained via this request will be provided to not only the public but also the media, Congress, the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board (a duly embodied federal advisory panel) and elected US officials, as well as to Canadian entities. Over the years, I have demonstrated an ability to use information gathered via FOIA requests in a manner so as to educate the public about DOE and issues it is addressing. I request that the fee-waiver standard that has been applied to my requests in the past be applied to this request.

If any claim is made that any portion of any located documents are sensitive in nature or meet FOIA exclusions, I request that redacted copies of such documents be provided to me and that a full explanation be provided as to the reasons for any redactions. I request that documents

be provided to me as they become available to DOE staff and that the documents not be withheld until all pertinent documents are obtained.

According to the enclosed article (*Repatriation of HEU from Canada to USA January 18, 2021*), "In October, AECL and NNSA signed a memorandum of understanding to enable more effective collaboration in the areas of nuclear safety and security and are exploring the repatriation of additional HEU and other materials over the next several years."

As grouted high-level nuclear waste containing highly enriched uranium exists at the AECL's Chalk River facility in Ontario, I am interested to learn if shipment of this material to the Savannah River Site or US is being considered. Such material would have to be disposed of in the non-existent HLW geologic repository (which would not be managed by NNSA) and would not be appropriate for "temporary" storage in South Carolina. I am also interested to find out if more research reactor spent fuel is being considered for import from Canada to DOE's Savannah River Site.

I hereby request:

- **A copy of any "memorandum of understanding" (MOU) between DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) signed in October 2020 or at any time in 2020 or 2021.**

- **Any attachments to any MOU(s) described above.**

Please get in touch if you have questions about this request. I thank you for your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Tom Clements
Director, SRS Watch

Repatriation of HEU from Canada to USA

18 January 2021



The US Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) have announced the completion of a multi-year campaign to repatriate 161kg of highly enriched uranium (HEU) liquid target

residue material from Chalk River Laboratories in Ontario, Canada, to the Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina.

The shipping campaign, which began in 2017 and finished in 2020, involved 115 separate truck shipments. Over the four years of the campaign, the shipments covered more than 240,000 kilometres of safe and secure transportation, equivalent to travelling around the earth six times.

Together, the completion of this shipping campaign, along with the recently completed campaign of used nuclear fuel from the National Research Universal and National Research Experimental research reactors, resulted in the repatriation of more than 367kg of HEU. AECL said this not only reduces Canada's environmental liabilities and risks, it also serves nuclear security and non-proliferation objectives by reducing the availability of this material.

"Completing this multi-year project with Canada marks another important step in the global effort to minimise the civilian use of HEU around the world," said Acting NNSA Administrator Dr William Bookless. "This significant achievement could not have been accomplished without the strong cooperation and hard work from all our partners in Canada and the United States."

Canadian target residue material was the by-product of the production of medical isotopes from AECL's National Research Universal research reactor, DOE said. Although the reactor is now shut down, for many decades it produced medical isotopes using HEU supplied by the USA.

The target residue material was returned to the USA under the US-Origin Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel Acceptance Programme, which was established in 1996 with the mission to repatriate US-origin used nuclear fuel and other weapons-grade nuclear material from civilian sites worldwide.

DOE's Office of Environmental Management, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, and Savannah River National Laboratory were key partners and played a pivotal role in the success of the campaign. It also relied on the cooperation and aid of numerous state and tribal governments.

In October, AECL and NNSA signed a memorandum of understanding to enable more effective collaboration in the areas of nuclear safety and security and are exploring the repatriation of additional HEU and other materials over the next several years.

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 [I have seen it](#)