



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 9, 2021

Mr. Joel Duling
President
BWXT Nuclear Operations Group, Inc.
2016 Mt. Athos Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24504

Dear Mr. Duling:

The Office of Enterprise Assessments' Office of Enforcement has completed its investigation into the facts and circumstances associated with the outer fuel element failure that occurred on November 13, 2018, at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge National Laboratory High Flux Isotope Reactor, which is managed and operated by UT-Battelle, LLC (UT-Battelle). BWXT Nuclear Operations Group, Inc. (BWXT NOG) manufactured the outer fuel element. DOE determined that DOE's quality assurance regulatory requirements under 10 C.F.R. Part 830 apply to the processes associated with the manufacturing of fuel elements to the extent that they only affect the safe operation of DOE nuclear facilities. However, based on the facts disclosed during the investigation, DOE elected to settle this matter through a consent order with UT-Battelle to resolve DOE's concerns related to UT-Battelle operations, including its procurement of fuel elements manufactured by BWXT NOG. Therefore, and consistent with 10 C.F.R. § 820.21, *Investigations*, further action at this time by the Office of Enforcement against BWXT NOG is unwarranted and the investigation is closed. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (301) 903-4033.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin L. Dressman".

Kevin L. Dressman
Director
Office of Enforcement
Office of Enterprise Assessments

cc: Johnny Moore, SC-OSO
Thomas Zacharia, UT-Battelle
Debbie Jenkins, UT-Battelle
Clay Richarson, BWXT NOG

