

The Core Conversion of the SLOWPOKE-2 Research Reactor in Kingston Jamaica

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Abstract

After 31 years of effective operation the SLOWPOKE-2 research reactor at the University of the West Indies, in Kingston Jamaica was successfully converted from Highly Enriched Uranium (93.7%) to Low enriched Uranium (19.8%). Cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Governments of the United States of America and Canada in completing the HEU removal was an outstanding example of how regional cooperation supported the global efforts to minimize the civilian use of HEU, while preserving important research capabilities of the facility. This paper reports on some of the key activities that took place and the lessons learned during the conversion process.