Construction and Testing of a Lithium-Uranium Dioxide Battery

¹Paul Dunbar, ¹Rhonda Lee, and ²Walter Tracinski

¹University of Kentucky, Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, Paducah Extension Campus, and ²Applied Power International

¹4810 Alben Barkley Drive, Paducah, KY 42001, <u>pdunbar@engr.uky.edu</u> and <u>rlee@engr.uky.edu</u> ²13384 E Hellroaring Road Athol, ID 83801 <u>watracinski@earthlink.net</u>

A battery has been constructed consisting of a lithium metal anode and a uranium dioxide cathode. The performance and characterization of this battery will be presented. This battery is the first step to utilize depleted uranium compounds as an electrode. Uranium dioxide has six valence electrons and it is highly corrosive. There is presently over nine billion pounds of depleted uranium available to be used. Uranium dioxide's electrochemical properties have been well characterized in aqueous solutions but only sparsely in organic solvents/lithium salts. Uranium dioxide has shown some reversible characteristics in aqueous solutions.