

Docket No. 50-39

REPORT

Curtiss-Wright Corporation  
Research Division  
Quehanna, Pennsylvania

Attention: Mr. Norman Wheelock

Gentlemen:

This is in reply to your telegram of March 11, 1959 requesting authorization to fabricate an instrumented fuel element and test it in the Curtiss-Wright reactor at Quehanna, Pennsylvania.

In order to arrive at an evaluation of the potential hazards involved in the proposed instrumented fuel element test, the following information is needed:

1. A description of the method of the mechanical assembly of the individual fuel plates to the side plates.
2. What precautions are taken to prevent the fuel plate assembly from becoming loose and coming apart during reactor operation?
3. An analysis of the consequences if the assembly became loose or fell apart during full power operation.
4. The effect, if any, on heat transfer characteristics of fuel assembly in new assembly method.
5. Will the mechanical assembly of the fuel elements or attachment of the thermocouples affect the integrity of the cladding?

Distribution  
Formal Docket  
Suppl. Docket  
Doc. Rm.  
LB reading  
L&R reading

Very truly yours,

Iyall Johnson  
Chief, Licensing Branch  
Division of Licensing and Regulation

D-129

OFFICE ▶	IRL	IRL	IRL			
SURNAME ▶	FCLee/mjm	CTEdwards	IJohnson			
DATE ▶	3/19/59	3/20	3/20			