Lyall Johnson, Chief Licensing Branch

C. K. Beck, Chief Hazards Evaluation Branch

PROCEDURES FOR PHOTOGRAPHING CURTIS-WRIGHT CORE

It is our understanding from discussions with D. Glenn Boyer, DRD, that the Lytle Company has been asked by the Division of Information Services to photograph the Curtis-Wright Research Reactor Core, in connection with a film being produced for the 1958 Geneva Conference. Photographs will be made of (a) the grid plate, (b) loading of fuel elements, (c) addition of BeOrreflector elements, (d) placement of ion and fission chambers, (e) insertion of control rods and (f) movement of core into position in front of beam tubes.

It is further understood that all of these operations will be dry, i.e., no moderating water will be present. Instead of using substantially all full (17% gram U-235) elements, partially loaded fuel elements will be used, so that there will be 1.7 kg U-235 in the dry mock-up core, versus 2.75 kg U-235 estimated to be required for criticality in the fully moderated and reflected core.

We see no reason why the proposed procedures would result in nuclear hazard, but suggest that Curtis-Wright personnel carefully supervise operations, making certain that all elements to be placed in position are in fact identified as to exact U-235 content.

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