MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING · DIVISION OF ENGINEERING RESEARCH EAST LANSING · MICHIGAN · 48824

June 22, 1979

Director, Division of Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Sirs:

RE: Docket 50-294, License R-114

This letter is in compliance with our Facility License which states that we are to report any incident or condition relating to the operation of the reactor which prevented or could have prevented a nuclear system from performing its safety function.

On 6-13-79, while performing a fuel temperature meter calibration, it was noted that fuel temperature meter T1 was malfunctioning in such a manner as to cause the temperature indication to drop to zero during full power (250 KW(t)) operation. This did not constitute a violation of Technical Specification since meter T2 was fully operational during this time.

On 6-14-, 6-15, and 6-18-79 meter T1 was inspected and tested as were the available thermocouples and their respective lead wires. The conclusion reached on 6-18-79 was that the thermocouples in one fuel element were failing intermittently. This fuel element is located in core position B5, serial number 7833.

In order to correct the problem, meter T1 was connected to a thermocouple from the other instrumented fuel element which is located in core position C11. Thus, T1 and T2 are measuring the fuel temperature in the same element, but at different axial positions. Meter T1 was checked on 6-18-79 to verify operability.

General Atomic Corporation will be contacted in the near future to determine if the problems with the thermocouples in fuel element 7833 can be resolved.

If there are any questions regarding this incident, please contact Reactor Supervisor, James Carrick, at (517) 353-9097.

Sincerely,

James Carrick

James Carrick
Reactor Supervisor

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cc: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Donald Van Farowe

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