

Central Files

Date: MAY 23 1975

Serial No.: IE-C&O-75-12

TRANSFER OF LEAD RESPONSIBILITY

To: K. R. Goller, Assistant Director for Operating Reactors, RL

Subject: Core Lift Flow Considerations

Facility: Oconee 2 and 3 - Docket Nos. 50-270 and 50-287

Responsible Branch Chief: K. V. Seyfrit

Description of Item Requiring Resolution:

The most recent Babcock and Wilcox analysis shows that for Oconee, Unit 2, fuel lifting would occur at 111.4% of design flow at end of core life. This is 0.5% less than the predicted core lift flow rate of 111.9% for the present point in core life. The present Unit 2 flow rate is believed to be 111.5% of design. Determination of this value is questionable due to instrumentation inaccuracies. The enclosed analysis from Babcock and Wilcox assumes that 111% of design flow is sufficient to lift approximately 16 centrally located fuel assemblies containing control rod assemblies.

The licensee has conducted tests in 3 and 4 loop configurations to detect any vertical displacement of fuel. These tests were conducted at 70% power using fast response incore probes. A telephone conversation with IE:II (T.N. Epps) on May 13, 1975, indicates that no vertical displacement of the fuel was detected during the test.

IE is also concerned that when element lift occurs a portion of the flow would bypass the lifted element and lead to "bouncing" of the element. There is also a possibility of chaffing during element lift.

IE Recommendations and Proposed Course of Action:

1. The Division of Reactor Licensing will review Babcock and Wilcox's analysis dated May 12, 1975 and determine, based on present flow rates, if any operating restrictions should be imposed on the licensee.
2. The Office of Inspection and Enforcement will provide additional information as available from our inspection efforts.

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3. The Office of Inspection and Enforcement will verify adherence to any requirements imposed by the Division of Reactor Licensing.

Reference:

1. Memo from F. J. Long to H. D. Thornburg dated May 6, 1975
2. Babcock and Wilcox Telecopy to F. Long dated May 2, 1975 - 5 pages

Concurrence:

Original signed by
K. Seyfrit

B. H. Grier, Assistant Director for Construction & Operations, IE Date

K. R. Goller, Assistant Director for Operating Reactors, RL Date

cc: D. F. Knuth, IE
A. Giambusso, RL
J. G. Davis, IE
R. Purple, RL
L. W. McDonough, RL
K. V. Seyfrit, IE
G. W. Reinmuth, IE
J. H. Sniezek, IE
H. D. Thornburg, IE
J. P. O'Reilly, IE:I
N. C. Moseley, IE:II
J. G. Keppler, IE:III
E. M. Howard, IE:IV
R. H. Engelken, IE:V
T. Abell, MIPC

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