

Babcock & Wilcox

a McDermott company

Nuclear Power Division

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JHT/89-33

Mr. Jose A. Calvo, Director
Project Directorate IV
Division of Reactor Projects-III/IV/V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Reference: J. H. Taylor to J. F. Stolz, "Fuel Pellet Vendor
Change," September 17, 1984.

Dear Mr. Calvo:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the NRC of a change in the B&W Fuel Company plans for inspecting fuel rods containing fuel pellets supplied by General Electric.

In the referenced letter, B&W described plans to change fuel pellet vendors from B&W to General Electric. Item 5 in the reference detailed an inspection plan for a minimum of four demonstration rods filled with the new vendor's pellets, which were being irradiated in the Arkansas Power and Light ANO-1. The inspection program outlined in the letter consisted of a visual examination. The reference also stated that a full batch of fuel containing General Electric pellets was to go in the Duke Power Oconee Unit 1 cycle 9. The operation of ANO-1 and Oconee 1 has been such that both the demonstration rods from ANO-1 and the full batch from Oconee 1 became available for inspection near the same time.

Of the 177 fuel assemblies from Oconee 1 cycle 11, 176 had fuel pellets supplied by General Electric. The three-cycle fuel from Oconee 1 is comparable to the demonstration rods from ANO-1. The burnups of each is calculated to be 36.7 GWd/mtU for the demonstration rods, and 36.6 GWd/mtU for the discharged batch.

Visual examinations were performed on the demonstration rods at ANO-1 at the end of the first and second cycles of irradiation. These rods were found to be in good condition.

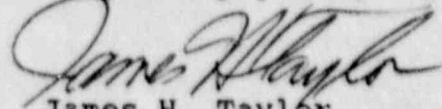
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As a part of a separate project, the B&W Fuel Company performed an ultrasonic inspection of all fuel assemblies in the Oconee 1 cycle 11 core and found no failed fuel rods in the three-cycle, discharged fuel assemblies. This inspection was much more detailed than that planned at ANO-1 and the fuel from both reactors is comparable in both supplier and burnup. These inspection results demonstrate satisfactory performance of fuel rods containing General Electric pellets. The final visual exam at ANO-1 is no longer required and will not be performed.

If there are any questions concerning this information, please contact C. F. McPhatter at (804) 385-2401.

Very truly yours,



James H. Taylor
Manager, Licensing Services

cc: R. B. Borsum
T. L. Baldwin