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CENTRAL FILE

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D. F. Ross, Chief, Core Performance Branch, L
THRU: P. S. Check, Section Leader, CPB, L

CONVERSATION WITH B&W CONCERNING THE ADEQUACY OF OCONEE 1 RELOAD REPORT

This memo is being written to document the conversations of L. R. Chandler with B&W personnel concerning the adequacy of the Oconee 1 reload report (re: telephone conversation between Mallay and Stello).

The earliest knowledge I had of the use of a special LOCA curve (i.e., not the FAC LOCA generic curve) for the Oconee 1 reload calculations and Technical Specifications was about 4:00 pm on Tuesday, December 3, 1974. Jerry Mazetis told Walt Brooks and myself about the use of the special curve at that time. The first communication to B&W concerning the use of this curve was made to Bill Brunson of B&W in a telephone conversation at 10:00 am on Wednesday, December 4, 1974. Walt Brooks and I participated in this conversation with Brunson and did not make any comment to Brunson concerning the adequacy of the Oconee 1 reload report except to state that we were not aware of the use of the special LOCA limit curve to derive the reload Technical Specifications when werwere reviewing the reload reportaadd Tech Specs in October 1974. We did not make any comment concerning rejection of the eeload report because of the use of the special LOCA curve. In the same telephone conversation, Brunson explained that the special LOCA curve was determined from the exact properties of the Oconee 1 reload fuel (vs. the properties of the normally used generic fuel) so that the Oconee 1 cycle 2 would not be limited to 93% of rated power. We also told Brunson that Jerry Mazetis was studying the Oconee 1 reload LOCA limit curve to decide whether or not it was acceptable. We told Brunson that the special LOCA limtt curve for Oconee 1 reload might not be acceptable and discussed what we might do about it. We said that we would notify him when we had a decision from Mazetis.

The only other conversation I had with B&W personnel after I knew of the use of the special LOCA curve was about 9:45 am on Thursday, December 5, 1974. This conversation involved Bill Brunson of B&W and me. This was a brief conversation in which I told Brunson that we (Reactor Safety, expecially Mazetis) okayed the use of the special LOCA curve for the Oconee 1 reload and that we would handle our documentation accordingly. I did not make any comment to him concerning the reload report. This was the last conversation I had with B&W.

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Very few people in Regulatory know of the use of the special LOCA limit curve for the Oconee 1 reload because we have been aware of its use only since Tuesday afternoon (December 3). It is most probable that B&W's misconception concerning remarks I may have made was caused by some other AEC person who miscontued my remarks and passed this on to B&W licensing personnel.

We subsequentially learned from B&W on Friday, December 6, 1974 that our understanding of the LOCA curve used for the Oconee 1 reload was incorrect. Jerry Mazetis has evaluated the LOCA curve (different from the one he previously evaluated) used for the Oconee 1 reload and has found that it is not acceptable. He has determined an acceptable LOCA curve for Oconee 1 reload, and B&W (Brunson) is currently determining the Tech Spec changes needed for concurrence with Mazetis' LOCA limit curve.

This incident can be used to show B&W that it had better improve the clarity of its communications (in this case, the reload report) to us.

L. R. Chandler
Core Performance Branch
Directorate of Licensing

cc: V. Stello
T. Novak
P. Ebeck
W. Brooks
J. Mazetis
L. Chandler

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