

APR 11 1973

Docket No. 50-269

R. C. DeYoung, Assistant Director for Pressurized Water Reactors, L  
THRU: A. Schwencer, Chief, Pressurized Water Reactors Br. No. 4, L

MEETING WITH BABCOCK & WILCOX ON FUEL DENSIFICATION - 4/6/73 OCONEE 1

I attended another meeting of the staff's fuel densification task force on Oconee Unit 1 with B&W and Duke Power Company. The discussion was mainly technical but resulted in the following highlights.

1. The staff does not accept the B&W models for clad collapse and gap conductance. These positions were made known to Duke and B&W prior to the meeting.
2. The staff is prepared to take the same position on Oconee Unit 1 as it did on Maine Yankee - namely that fuel collapse will not take place during the first cycle or up to 11,000 full power hours. Oconee Unit 1 first cycle is 7,500 hours. However, the B&W model requires extensive extrapolation for application to a second or third cycle and is unacceptable.
3. B&W took the position that it needs a letter from the AEC stating the minimum number of hours for fuel collapse that is acceptable. The staff should complete its review on the basis of what is now in the record. Nothing is to be gained by additional changes to what has already been submitted. B&W will continue to work with the staff in developing conservative models for future application.
4. The staff will not accept TAFY as a gap conductance model with the contact term included. The staff agrees that TAFY is more conservative than GAPCON when the contact term is not applied. The staff wants several days to review gap conductance further in light of information presented at the meeting.

- 5. The target date for completing the review is still May 1, 1973. The LPM again pointed out the implications of a slip in this schedule particularly with regard to Oconee Unit 1 rise to power scheduled for May 4, 1973. If fuel densification is not settled by then the staff will have to reach another interim power position and impose the associated tech spec restrictions.

Irving A. Peltier, Project Manager  
 Pressurized Water Reactors Br. No. 4  
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