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70-1100

POWER SYSTEMS

July 10, 1980

SNM License 1067
Docket 70-1100

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Mr. Richard E. Cunningham, Director
Division of Fuel Cycle & Material Safety

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

Pursuant to Amendment No. 25 of License SNM-1067, Combustion Engineering, Inc. hereby submits this letter to inform you that we have exceeded our quarterly reporting level of 18μCi of airborne particulates from the Windsor site during the second quarter of 1980. The total quantity discharged during the period March 30 through June 28 was 22.23μCi of low enriched (≤3.65% U^{235}) UO_2. The 18μCi level was exceeded on June 24th when approximately 11.3μCi's of activity were released. This occurred after completion of an absolute filter change in the FA-4 ventilation system in which the new filters were not replaced in a tight sealing configuration. The FA-4 ventilation system was immediately shut down and an investigation was initiated to determine the cause of the release. It was determined that the overall dimensions of the replacement absolute filters were slightly smaller than filters purchased in the past. This resulted in a small amount of air leakage around the filters, causing the 11.3μCi release on June 24th. To assure against any recurrence of this type, the following corrective actions have been taken:

1) A procedure which specifies the exact dimensions (and allowable tolerances) for replacement absolute filters for all four ventilation systems has been written and approved by the Engineering and Health Physics groups. This procedure will be followed during all subsequent absolute filter changes. It also includes a requirement to inspect, for adequate sealing in the filter box, all absolute filters which are replaced or moved.

2) Upon completion of an absolute filter change in any of the ventilation systems, an air sample will be obtained after 30 minutes, 2 hours, and 8 hours of operating time. These samples will be analyzed immediately to identify any possible leakage through the filters so that the system can be shut down before a significant particulate release occurs.

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The above corrective actions include multiple safeguards to eliminate any future recurrences of this type.

Very truly yours,

H. V. Lichtenberger
Vice President-Nuclear Fuel
Nuclear Power Systems-Manufacturing

HVL/GAJ/ssb

cc: U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
Attn: Mr. George H. Smith, Chief
Fuel Facility & Material Safety Branch
631 Park Avenue
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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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