

OCT 23 1980

Docket No. 50-124

INFORMATION SERVICES
 DIVISION
 OCT 23 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert L. Tedesco, Assistant Director
for Licensing
Division of Licensing

FROM: Lester S. Rubenstein, Assistant Director
for Core and Containment Systems
Division of Systems Integration

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT FOR THE VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC
INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY REACTOR FOR OPERATION
WITH A 13-PLATE FUEL ASSEMBLY

By letter dated September 17, 1980, the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, requested an amendment to Facility Operating License No. R-62. The requested amendment would grant a temporary waiver of the technical specifications to permit operation and tests of a 13-plate fuel assembly. In our technical evaluation of the requested amendment, we concluded that the proposed experiment and operation for a limited time with a 13-plate assembly is acceptable. This conclusion was based on several considerations, chief among them being the fact that the excess $\Delta k/k$ will not exceed that required by the technical specifications and the reactor power will not exceed 1 kw.

The requested change of the pertinent technical specification is also attached.

Original signed by
L. S. Rubenstein

Lester S. Rubenstein, Assistant Director
for Core and Containment Systems
Division of Systems Integration

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