

Omaha Public Power District

1623 HARNEY ■ OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102 ■ TELEPHONE 536-4000 AREA CODE 402

November 23, 1982

LIC-82-383

Mr. Robert A. Clark, Chief
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Division of Licensing
Operating Reactors Branch No. 3
Washington, D.C. 20555

Reference: Docket No. 50-285

Dear Mr. Clark:

Fort Calhoun Station Spent Fuel Storage Rack Expansion

Omaha Public Power District's letter to the Commission dated March 12, 1982 transmitted the District's licensing submittal regarding our proposal to increase the spent fuel storage rack capacity at the Fort Calhoun Station. This proposed modification involved the utilization of high density storage racks and a neutron poison material (i.e., Boraflex) in all racks for criticality control. A few months ago, the District was informed by our engineering contractor that a variation of this rack design could be utilized at the Fort Calhoun Station and that a substantial cost savings over the original design was possible. The major difference of this new design is that fuel burnup is credited in the criticality analysis and, thus, the majority of the fuel bundles do not have to be surrounded by Boraflex to ensure the fuel's K_{eff} remains below 0.95. Since the cost of the spent fuel rerack project could be significantly reduced, the District commenced an evaluation to determine if pursuing approval and installation of this new design was practical. Additionally, as a result of our bidding process, several vendors submitted an alternate structural design for the new racks, which has been evaluated and could result in additional savings to the District and our customers.

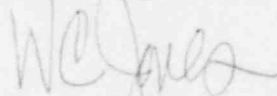
On October 22, 1982, Mr. T. Patterson of the District met informally with members of your staff to discuss the new rack design and the District's plans for revising our previous licensing submittal to incorporate the necessary engineering analyses and justification for this design. The purpose of this letter is to formally notify the

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Commission that the District has decided to pursue approval for the installation of the rack design which accounts for fuel burnup. The new rack design will utilize a combination of Boraflex and non-Boraflex racks, where burnup is credited for the fuel in the racks without the neutron poison. The new rack design also incorporates structural differences resulting from accepting an alternate design from the vendors. The District expects to submit a revised application, with significant changes addressed in the mechanical, seismic, criticality, and administrative control areas, by January 1, 1983.

Sincerely,



W. C. Jones
Division Manager
Production Operations

WCJ/TLP:jmm

cc: LeBoeuf, Lamb, Leiby & MacRae
1333 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Mr. E. G. Tourigny, NRC Project Manager