

DCS-016

Docket No.: STN 50-483

MAY 17 1984

Mrs. Leo Drey
515 West Point Avenue
University City, Missouri 63130

Dear Mrs. Drey:

Subject: Use of Hafnium Control Rods at Callaway

In your letter dated May 3, 1984, you expressed a desire to know about the staff review of hafnium control rods. I would like to address your request by first noting that the use of hafnium control rods is not an "experiment" at Callaway. There are several hundred reactor years of operating experience from both naval and commercial reactors that have used hafnium as a control material. The most recent use of hafnium in a commercial reactor for an extended period of time was at the Yankee Rowe Plant where this material was used, with acceptable results, for approximately nine years.

The use of hafnium control rods at Callaway has undergone NRC Staff review of both plant-specific design information submitted by Union Electric (UE) as well as any generic documentation, such as topical reports, which may have been provided by Westinghouse Electric Corporation. Based on its review of the above information and the operating experience from other reactors, the staff concluded that the use of hafnium at Callaway was acceptable. There will be a condition in the Callaway License which requires that UE perform a visual inspection during one of the first five refueling outages. This precaution is to confirm that the design performs as expected. The above staff review and license condition are discussed in the Callaway Safety Evaluation Report (SER) and Supplement No. 2 to the SER.

All publicly available information on the use of hafnium control rods in commercial reactors can be obtained through the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). Copies of this information can be obtained by calling 800-368-5642 and then requesting to be connected to the PDR at 634-3273. There is a 5¢ per page reproduction fee in addition to the necessary postage.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Joseph J. Holonich, Project Manager
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H PDR

cc: See next page

*SEE PREVIOUS PAGE FOR CONCURRENCES
(RETYPE 5/16/84 kab)

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CALLAWAY

MAY 17 1964

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