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Rensselaer

Department of Nuclear Engineering & Engineering Physics

January 28, 1992

Mr. Theodore Michaels
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mailstop 11-B-20
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Sir:

The RPI Reactor Critical Facility (RCF) Fuel Vault currently is licensed under CX-22 to store up to 600 SPERT(F1) fuel pins. A letter from me to Mr. Keith R. Brown, Office of External Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office, dated 16 August 1991, shows that an additional 600 SPERT(F1) fuel pins will not adversely affect either criticality or structural requirements. Hence this letter requests a modification in the CX-22 license to possess and use 1200 SPERT(F1) fuel pins.

The 600 additional fuel pins are required to carry out potential low density moderation critical experiments. Such experiments will not be carried out prior to USNRC approval. It is my understanding from the RPI Office of Risk Management that the additional 600 fuel pins will not result in increased insurance costs for RPI.

Sincerely,

Dr. Donald R. Harris, Director
RPI Reactor Critical Facility (RCF)

DRH:jjd

- cc: R.C. Block, Dept. Head
- A.E. Bergles, Dean, School of Eng.
- Gary Judd, Vice Provost, Academic Affairs
- J.J. Butteridge, Mgr., Office of Risk Management
- K.R. Brown, U.S. DOE

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