

Suppl.

10-1-68

Docket, No. 50-231

General Electric Company
Advanced Products Operation
310 DeQuigne Drive
Sunnyvale, California 94806

Attention: Mr. Karl P. Cohen
General Manager

Gentlemen:

In a letter dated May 17, 1968, the General Electric Company requested authority to insert no more than six standard or depleted fuel rod elements into the SEFOR reactor for testing purposes. The possession of this fuel is now licensed by the Commission under Special Nuclear Material License No. SNN-1018.

We have reviewed the procedures and safety considerations relative to the requested use of the six standard or depleted fuel rod elements, including: (1) transfer of fuel from the new fuel storage area to the refueling cell; (2) insertion of fuel rods into the reactor; (3) transfer of fuel from the refueling cell to the fuel storage area; (4) criticality and radiation controls maintained; and (5) the fuel accountability method that will be used during the test program. Based on the material reviewed, we conclude that: (1) adequate precautions will be taken to assure a subcritical fuel mass and maintenance of radiation and contamination control; and (2) even in the event of an accident the potential for the release of any significant amount of radioactive material appears to be negligible.

Your proposal to place up to a maximum of six standard or depleted fuel rod elements in the core of the facility for the purpose of testing dimensional compatibility under the procedures described is considered to be pre-operational testing

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rather than fuel loading (which may not be done prior to the issuance of an operating license). The proposed tests may be performed so long as they are limited solely to dimensional testing, and not performed for the purpose of increasing the neutron population to accomplish subcritical physics, instrumentation, or other tests.

Three copies of Amendment No. 1 to Indemnity Agreement No. B-35 are enclosed for your review and acceptance. Please sign and return one copy of the amendment to this office at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Morris, Director
Division of Reactor Licensing

cc: Mr. J. Robert Welsh
President
Southwest Atomic Energy Associates
306 Pyramid Building
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Mr. B. D. Wilson
Administrator - Licensing
Nuclear Energy Division
General Electric Company
175 Curtner Avenue
San Jose, California 95125

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For other concurrences see attached yellow.

S & LR
J Saltzman
E Price 10//68

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Southwest Atomic Energy Associates
306 Pyramid Building
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Mr. B. D. Wilson
Administrator - Licensing
Nuclear Energy Division
General Electric Company
175 Curtner Avenue
San Jose, California 95125

*Retyped to add
last paragraph*

*Agreed with
Schwartz
5/9*

S&LR
JSaltzman
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