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Jack O'Leary

Calvert Cliffs Fuel Densification

I have talked to George Rivenbark and to the fuel densification experts about Calvert Cliffs' difficulties with fuel densification analysis. The Combustion Engineering analysis models which were used to finally get Fort Calhoun done turn out to be conservative enough so that Calvert Cliffs would have to be derated substantially if the same analysis were used. Thus, our fond hopes that the Fort Calhoun analysis would become a prototype for all succeeding Combustion Engineering reactors has fallen by the wayside.

I am told that Combustion Engineering will be submitting new models, etc., applicable to Calvert Cliffs and that this will all take place either immediately or in the next few weeks. In either case we are totally unable to digest these new models and produce our final safety evaluation report material on fuel densification by the first week in May, which is the time at which the supplement on Calvert Cliffs has to go to the ACRS.

I have suggested to Rivenbark that what we do is speak to the fuel densification matter in the supplement which he is producing for the ACRS June meeting along the lines that further information is on the way, that we will evaluate it when it comes in, and that a separate supplement will detail our conclusions on the matter and will be discussed with the Committee in due time. The hope is that the Committee, at the June meeting, will be willing to write a letter on Calvert Cliffs with fuel densification as an outstanding item. On Calvert Cliffs we do not have a hearing, apparently, and the difficulty in a contested hearing with not having a Committee letter on fuel densification is not a problem here. Assuming that DeYoung does not have any problem with this course, I suggest we go ahead along these lines.

Joseph M. Hendrie
Joseph M. Hendrie, Deputy Director
for Technical Review
Directorate of Licensing

J. Hendrie

D. H. - O'Leary 4-20-73

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