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P. O. BOX 1640, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205

MORRIS L. STAMPLEY
VICE PRESIDENT

May 10, 1973

United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Attention: Mr. A. Giambusso, Deputy Director
for Reactor Projects
Directorate of Licensing

SUBJECT: Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
Units 1 and 2
Project 9645
Docket No.'s 50-416/417
File 0272/
AEC Press Release Concerning Standardization
AECM-34



Gentlemen:

We are writing in response to your letter of April 26, 1972, suggesting that we amend our Application for the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station by reducing the thermal power output of our reactors.

As you are aware, we tendered our Application on September 25, 1972 on the basis of a 3833 Mwt rating for each reactor. During the year prior to our filing, we met on several occasions with members of the regulatory staff to discuss our proposed plans including the proposed power level. On November 17, 1973 you docketed and started the review of our Application on the basis of 3833 Mwt reactor power. We note that page 7 of the Regulatory Staff's study (Enclosure 2 to your letter) states that "The size of all new plants accepted for licensing review ... will be limited to power levels of less than 3800 megawatts thermal..." Our plant had been "accepted for licensing review" several months prior to the issuance of the March 5, 1973 AEC press release. Additionally, you have issued the Draft Environmental Statement on the basis of 3833 Mwt; the DES concludes "that the action called for under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Appendix D to 10 CFR Part 50 is the issuance of a construction permit"

We have proceeded to purchase the reactors and the turbine-generators on the basis of 3833 Mwt as filed and accepted for review. While the reduction of power level to 3800 Mwt would not significantly reduce the cost of the plant, the resultant station loss of approximately 22 Mwe output (11 Mwe per unit) represents a loss of base load capacity which

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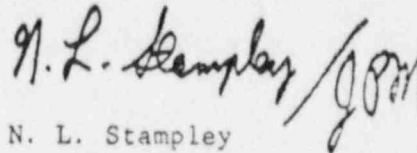
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would cost us approximately \$11,000,000 to replace. We would also point out that the 251" reactor vessel used in our reactors has been previously licensed and the fuel and Emergency Core Cooling System design represents a more conservative design than many of those previously licensed.

However, in light on your statement concerning the simplification of the review of our Application, we would be pleased to discuss further with you any issues concerning our reactor power level which may jeopardize the review schedule we have both pledged to maintain.

Yours very truly,



N. L. Stampley
Vice President

JPM:eh

cc: Mr. Troy B. Conner, Jr.
Mr. Robert C. Travis