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 FACIL: 50-261 H. B. Robinson Plant, Unit 2, Carolina Power and Light 05000261
 AUTH. NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
 OWSLEY, G.F. Exxon Nuclear Co., Inc. (subs. of Exxon Corp.)
 RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 IPPOLITO, T.A. Operating Reactors Branch 3

SUBJECT: Responds to inquiries by NRC re control rod guide tube wear measurements. Guide tube wear measurements in discharged assemblies are scheduled for Jan 1978.

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December 5, 1979

Mr. T. A. Ippolito, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Operating Reactors
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

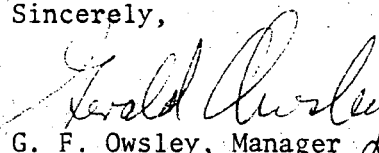
Dear Mr. Ippolito:

This letter is in response to recent phone calls which we received from E. B. Conner, Jr. and R. R. Riggs of the Staff regarding control rod guide tube wear measurements performed by Exxon Nuclear. As we stated in our letter on this subject to Brian K. Grimes dated September 15, 1978, ENC was planning examinations of Exxon Nuclear manufactured assemblies at the H. B. Robinson Unit 2 plant. However, these tests, which have been completed, were performed on assemblies which did not operate under control rod clusters, so measurements were not applicable to the guide tube wear problems.

Guide tube wear measurements in discharged assemblies which have undergone three cycles of irradiation are scheduled to be performed in January 1980 at the H. B. Robinson Unit 2 plant. Although plans have not been finalized, we intend to examine the control rod guide tubes in three assemblies which have a history of being under control banks. The tests will be performed with an eddy current system which has a capability of detecting thinning greater than about three mils. The nominal guide tube wall thickness for these Exxon Nuclear assemblies is 16.5 mils.

We will advise you of the results of these examinations within 30 days of their completion. If you have any further questions on this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,


G. F. Owsley, Manager
Reload Fuel Licensing

GFO:gf

CC: Mr. R. R. Riggs (USNRC)

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