

4/21/76

Docket No. 50-220

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
ATTN: Mr. Gerald K. Rhode
Vice President - Engineering
300 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13202

Gentlemen:

To respond to an order from the Atomic Safety Licensing Appeal Board relating to the River Bend Station, Units 1 and 2 licensing proceeding, we must prepare testimony which requires certain information concerning fuel usage in operating reactors. Time is of great essence on this project; therefore, the Operating Reactor Project Manager has contacted you by telephone regarding our requirements. Supplying the information is entirely voluntary and is not required under the Commission's rules and regulations; however, your cooperation in supplying the information will be greatly appreciated. The information we receive from you will be combined with similar data from other operating nuclear power plants to provide an overview of fuel utilization in operating reactors. The specific information that we need for each reload since the reactor startup is:

1. Day, month and year of reactor shutdown and restart.
2. The average Uranium-235 enrichment in the reload.
3. If any fraction of the reload was previously exposed, what fraction was exposed, and what was the exposure in megawatt days per metric tonne of uranium (MWD/MTU) and the quantity of uranium in metric tonnes (MT).
4. The predicted average exposure in MWD/MTU at the time the fuel was loaded.
5. The estimated average exposure in MWD/MTU of the discharged fuel. If less than 90% of predicted, explain why.
6. The average Uranium-235 enrichment when discharged.
7. The average Plutonium-239 enrichment when discharged.

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8. Was the fuel clad in stainless steel or Zircaloy?
9. Did the reactor have sufficient reactivity left to operate at full power when it was shut down for reloading?
10. Was the reactor shut down for other than reactivity limitations that were expected to exist prior to the next refueling? If yes, why? (See No. 5)
11. Was an incore power monitoring program used to calculate the discharged exposure? If not, how were the exposures ascertained?
12. The total energy produced by the reactor (MWe-days) during the time interval between reloading.

To prepare testimony as soon as practical, the Project Manager has requested an early verbal response. We would prefer that the information you give us be confirmed in writing. If the use of this information for the intended purpose is restricted in any way, please indicate the degree of restriction. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Karl R. Goller, Assistant Director
for Operating Reactors
Division of Operating Reactors

cc: See next page

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