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CRUTCHFIELD,D. Operating Reactors Branch 5

SUBJECT: Describes plans for Cycle 11 fuel loading. Cycle 11 operation does not constitute unreviewed safety question or require change in plant Tech Specs.

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March 11, 1981

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. Dennis M. Crutchfield, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch No. 5
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Cycle 11 Reload
R. E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant
Docket No. 50-244

Dear Mr. Crutchfield:

The purpose of this letter is to describe our plans for Ginna Cycle 11, which will commence following our April, 1981 refueling outage. The fuel design and cycle design, including the impact on previously performed safety analyses, has been reviewed by the Plant Operations Review Committee and the Nuclear Safety Audit and Review Board and it has been determined, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.59, that Cycle 11 operation does not constitute an unreviewed safety question or require a change in the Technical Specifications.

The Cycle 11 fuel loading will consist of 117 Exxon Nuclear fabricated fuel assemblies and 4 Westinghouse fabricated assemblies. The Exxon Nuclear assemblies include 24 fresh Region 13 fuel assemblies, 4 fresh Region 12 assemblies, 32 one cycle assemblies, 40 two cycle assemblies, and 17 three cycle assemblies. The four mixed oxide Westinghouse assemblies have been in the reactor one cycle.

The Region 13 fuel being loaded is identical to previously loaded Exxon Nuclear fuel except that the guide tubes are zircaloy instead of stainless steel and except for minor changes in the top nozzle to accommodate the zircaloy guide tubes. The standard Exxon Nuclear fuel design for PWRs includes zircaloy guide tubes, similar to the Ginna Region 13 design. Compatibility of the Region 13 fuel with other fuel and core components was confirmed, it was confirmed that the consequences of previously analyzed accidents were not increased, and it was confirmed that the Region 13 fuel design met previously approved limits, as approved by Amendment No. 19 to the Ginna license, transmitted by NRC letter dated May 1, 1978 regarding the initial Exxon Nuclear reload.

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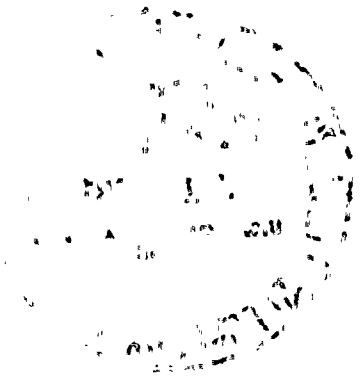

Cycle 11 is being designed for a length of 9200 MWD/MT assuming a Cycle 10 length of 8600 MWD/MT. The Cycle 11 analysis is also valid for a band of +700 MWD/MT and -600 MWD/MT about the nominal Cycle 10 exposure. Cycle 11 operation will result in a peak assembly burnup of less than 35000 MWD/MTU and a discharge region average burnup of less than 32000 MWD/MTU. At these levels, the fuel complies with previously approved design criteria.

The fuel and cycle neutronics and operating parameters have been reviewed and it has been determined that all previous transient and accident analyses remain valid for Cycle 11 operation.

On the basis of the evaluation, it was determined that Cycle 11 operation did not constitute an unreviewed safety question or require a change in the plant Technical Specifications.

Very truly yours,

John E. Maier

J. E. Maier