

January 9, 1986
(NMP2L 0579)

Ms. Elinor G. Adensam, Director
BWR Project Directorate No. 3
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7920 Norfolk Avenue
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Ms. Adensam:

Re: Nine Mile Point Unit 2
Docket No. 50-410

A recent amendment (number 23). to the Final Safety Analysis Report (see page 9.1-8a and Figure 9.1-3) of Nine Mile Point 2 included a revision to the nominal 3-in. water gap between adjacent fuel racks in the spent fuel pool in the north-south direction. This letter presents additional information on the revision.

The change from the 3-in. dimension reflects the as-built status of the racks in the spent fuel pool. Gaps between adjacent racks in the north-south direction, as well as the gaps between the racks and the standoffs on portions of the periphery vary between 2-3/4-in. and 3-1/2-in.

The Criticality Safety Analysis (Revision 1, January 1984) prepared by Pickard, Lowe and Garrick, Inc. for Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station - Unit 2 states that a detailed two-dimensional model was used to conservatively calculate the reactivity effect of the spacing between modular fuel rack assemblies. Calculations using this model showed that the perturbation from a uniform infinite array in both the east-west and north-south directions results in a reduction in the k_{∞} of the basic cell. Therefore, no adjustment is required to account for the spacing between rack modules.

A review of the calculations performed for the criticality analysis reveals that the effect of the water gap is so strongly negative that the difference between the nominal 3-in. and the 2-3/4 to 3-1/2-in. actual gaps is insignificant. The poisoning effect due to any of these water gaps between the stainless steel walls of the racks exceeds that due to the Boraflex between adjacent cells within the racks.

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3A PDR

ADD:

EB (LIAN)
PSB (L. HULMAN)
EICSB (SRINIVASAN)
RSB (ACTING)
FOB (VASSALLO)
AD - G. LAINAS (LTR ONLY)

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Ms. Elinor G. Adensam, Director
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This information is provided to clarify the brief identification of the change provided with Amendment 23.

Very truly yours,


C. V. Mangan
Senior Vice President

RAC:ja
1220G

xc: R. A. Gramm, NRC Resident Inspector
Project File (2)

