



Public Service Company of Colorado

July 25, 1979
Fort St. Vrain
Unit No. 1
P-79154

Mr. William P. Gammill
Assistant Director for Standardization
and Advanced Reactors
Division of Project Management
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Docket #50-267

Subject: Grade H-451 Graphite Licensing
Approval

- References: 1) NRC Letter dated May 21, 1979
W.P. Gammill to C. Fisher-GAC
- 2) "Safety Analysis Report-Use
of H-451 Graphite in Fort St.
Vrain Fuel Elements", GLP-5588
dated December 20, 1977.

Gentlemen:

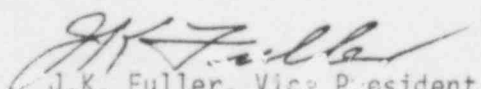
The existing Fort St. Vrain reactor core utilizes fuel and reflector elements machined from grade H-327 needle-coke (anisotropic) graphite. Evaluations have been performed to determine the suitability of replacing grade H-327 fuel and reflector element graphite with grade H-451 near-isotropic graphite as indicated in the above references.

Based upon the NRC's favorable review (Reference 1) of the H-451 Safety Analysis Report, PSC requests NRC's specific licensing approval to utilize grade H-451 graphite in fuel and reflector elements in selected regions of Fort St. Vrain reload Segment 9 and to utilize grade H-451 graphite in all regions of subsequent reload segments.

NRC's approval is requested with the understanding that the information requested in paragraph 3 of Reference 1 will be submitted to the NRC as the information becomes available and that all resulting NRC concerns will be resolved prior to insertion of reload Segment 9 with grade H-451 graphite into the Fort St. Vrain core.

NRC's approval for the use of grade H-451 graphite is requested by October 1, 1979 as grade H-451 graphite procurement orders must be placed prior to January 1, 1980.

Very truly yours,


J.K. Fuller, Vice President
Engineering and Planning

JKF/MLP:1er

7208010

Dooy
5/10

501 P

492 342