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MURRAY R. EDELMAN

VICE PRESIDENT
NUCLEAR

February 18, 1983

PY-CEI/NRR-0016 L

Mr. B. J. Youngblood, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 1
Division of Licensing
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Perry Nuclear Power Plant
Docket Nos. 50-440; 50-441
SER Confirmatory Issue #14
Overheating of Gadolinia
Fuel Pellets

Dear Mr. Youngblood:

This letter is being provided in response to your letter dated January 5, 1983, regarding the Perry Nuclear Power Plant Safety Evaluation Report Confirmatory Issue No. 14 pertaining to the overheating of gadolinia fuel pellets.

General Electric (GE) has developed an improved fuel rod thermal-mechanical design code that utilizes revised gadolinia fuel thermal conductivity relations. The results, obtained by GE, of the fuel centerline melting analysis using the improved code, verified that gadolinia fuel melting is not expected to occur during normal steady-state operation or during the largest whole core anticipated operational transient.

The NEDE 24011-P report, that was mentioned in your letter, is being updated to incorporate this new mechanical model with up-to-date gadolinia material properties. You will be receiving the updated NEDE 24011-P report from G.E. by March 1, 1983.

We believe that the information provided in this letter and in the updated NEDE 24011-P report should resolve this confirmatory issue in the next Supplementary Safety Evaluation Report.

Very truly yours,

Murray R. Edelman
Vice President
Nuclear Group

Boo!

MRE:kh

cc: Jay Silberg, Esq.
John Stefano
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