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## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

## RHODE ISLAND ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Nuclear Science Center  
South Ferry Road  
Narragansett, R.I. 02882-1197

March 3, 1986

Secretary of the Commission  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Docket 50-193  
License R-95

Dear Sir:

This letter is transmitted pursuant to the "Order to show cause" which was issued on September 27, 1985 concerning the amount of unirradiated high enriched uranium fuel on site. We did not respond within the 30 days because we had no objections to the order and because we believed that the wording of the order - namely ".....or failure to answer or request a hearing on this Order within the specified time period, the provisions set forth in Section III shall become effective without further order." - required no response.

Based on Section III of the Order we will require one element for replacement of a failed element, and two elements for that amount of fuel elements depleted in a 90-day period of normal fuel power operation. Therefore, the normal compliment of unirradiated high enriched uranium fuel is three elements containing a nominal total of 372 grams of fuel.

We note that on January 25, 1986, 120 days from the effective date of this Order, we had three unirradiated fuel elements.

There will be occasions when the 90 days supply for burnup will be more than 2 fuel elements. While we are currently in such a situation, we do not expect this to reoccur because of conversions to low enriched uranium.

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Secretary of the Commission  
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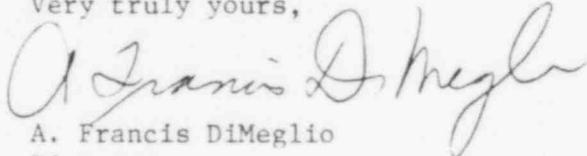
This situation occurs for the following circumstances:

1. a full compliment of spent irradiated fuel awaiting shipment to reprocessing (maximum of 42 elements)
2. an operating core of 30 elements with minimum excess because several of the fuel elements are close to burnup (30 elements)
3. storage capacity in the pool for 72 elements.

In this situation, which existed when the Order to show cause was issued and until the last week in January 1986, the core excess reactivity was allowed to decrease since, if we had added a fresh element to the core, we would not have been able to unload the entire operating core. Therefore, now that the spent fuel has been shipped to reprocessing, the 90-day supply of fuel is four elements, two of which will be used upon arrival to restore the excess reactivity to the core. As already stated, we do not expect this situation to reoccur.

The Rhode Island Atomic Energy Commission apologizes for any inconvenience this "late" response may have caused.

Very truly yours,



A. Francis DiMeglio  
Director

AFD:cd

cc: Region 1, Mr. Arthur Della Ratta

Executive Legal Director  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

Davis for Approp. Action  
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LOGGING DATE: Mar 13 86  
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PAPER NUMBER: CRC-86-0239

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: A.F. DiMeglio  
AFFILIATION: RHODE ISLAND

LETTER DATE: Mar 12 86 FILE CODE: RD-31

SUBJECT: Sept 27, 1986 order to show cause --amount of  
irradiated neu fuel on site

ACTION: Appropriate

DISTRIBUTION:

SPECIAL HANDLING: None

NOTES:

DATE DUE:

SIGNATURE:  
AFFILIATION:

DATE SIGNED:

Rec'd Off. EDO

Date 3-14-86

Time 1:48 p.