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ADDENDUM TO PROPOSED CHANGE NO. 3

FOR THE

SOUTHWEST EXPERIMENTAL FAST OXIDE REACTOR

Re: LICENSE DR-15

DOCKET 50-231

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ADDENDUM TO PROPOSED CHANGE NO. 3

FOR THE

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I. Introduction

Proposed Change No. 3 to the SEFOR Technical Specifications was previously submitted on July 8, 1970. This addendum proposes additional changes and presents additional discussion justifying the proposed changes.

II. Additional Proposed Changes

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 50.59, General Electric requests that the Technical Specifications be changed by substituting pages 3.3-2, 3.3-7, and 3.3-8 in Attachment A of this document for corresponding pages of the current Technical Specifications. The proposed changes to the current Technical Specifications are indicated by brackets in the margin on the enclosed pages.

III. Discussion

General Electric feels that the information presented in Proposed Change No. 3, dated July 8, 1970, provides valid and sufficient reasons for permitting the guinea pig rods to remain under the innermost refueling ports while the reactor is operated at the design power level. We also feel that such operation will provide important information for both the SEFOR program and the LMFBR program.

The safety evaluation of Proposed Change No. 3 was based on the possibility of operating at 22 MWt. However, the maximum planned power level is only 20 MWt. If the proposed change is approved, the high flux trip level for the safety system will be reduced to

the value of P_{MAX}, calculated as explained in the bases for proposed specification 3.3.N, whenever the reactor is operated above 17.5 MWt and one or more guinea pig rods are located under the innermost ports. This will provide assurance that the guinea pig rods are not operated at linear power densities greater than that for which the safety of standard rods has been assessed.(1)

Operation at power levels achieved thus far (17.5 MWt) has shown that the reactor is very stable and that the power level can be controlled with good precision. Consequently, operation with the trip level set within 1 or 2% of the power level appears to be feasible for special tests. However, should this approach prove to be unfeasible, General Electric will re-submit the request for operation with guinea pig rods as originally proposed in the July 8, 1970 submittal.

References:

1. SEFOR Technical Specifications, page 2.1-3.