

Docket No. 50-29

Yankee Atomic Electric Company
ATTN: Mr. Robert H. Groce
Licensing Engineer
20 Turnpike Road
Westboro, Massachusetts 01581

APR 19 1978

Gentlemen:

By application dated November 8, 1977, you submitted a document entitled "Final Report of the Examination of Exxon Nuclear Fuel at Yankee-Rowe, Spring 1977" and requested that it be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790. Your letter also enclosed an affidavit by Roy Hilson of the Exxon Nuclear Company, Inc. (ENC) dated October 31, 1977, in support of the withholding request.

Your reasons for requesting that the document be withheld from public disclosure were that the information contained in the document has been classified proprietary by ENC because it reveals test data and methods related to fuel design which were obtained at considerable expense to ENC; the information is not available in public sources and, release of this information to the public would jeopardize ENC's competitive position.

We have reviewed your application and material based on the requirements and criteria of 10 CFR 2.790 and have determined that the above mentioned document sought to be withheld contains trade secrets or proprietary commercial information.

We also have found at this time that the right of the public to be fully apprised as to the bases for and effects of the proposed action does not outweigh the demonstrated concern for protection of ENC's competitive position. Accordingly, we have determined that the information should be withheld from public disclosure.

We therefore approve your request for withholding pursuant to Section 2.790 of 10 CFR Part 2 and are withholding the document from public inspection as proprietary.

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Withholding from public inspection shall not affect the right, if any, of persons properly and directly concerned to inspect the documents. If the need arises, we may send copies of this information to our consultants working in this area. We will, of course, assure that the consultants have signed the appropriate agreements for handling proprietary data.

If the basis for withholding this information from public inspection should change in the future such that the information could then be made available for public inspection, you should promptly notify the NRC.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Dennis L. Ziemann

D. L. Ziemann, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Operating Reactors

cc: See next page

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Yankee Atomic Electric Company

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April 19, 1978

cc

Mr. Donald G. Allen, President
Yankee Atomic Electric Company
20 Turnpike Road
Westboro, Massachusetts 01581

Greenfield Community College
1 College Drive
Greenfield, Massachusetts 01301