

United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Box 25046
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225

IN REPLY REFER TO:

October 11, 1978

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Division of Reactor Licensing
Washington, D.C. 20545

Attention: Charles Trammel

Docket No. 50-274
Reactor License R-113

By this letter, we request the following change to our license.

Paragraph 2.B states: "Pursuant to the Act and Title 10, Chapter 1, CFR, Part 70, "Special Nuclear Material", to receive, possess and use up to 4 kilograms of uranium-235 for use in connection with operation of the reactor."

We request that this paragraph be changed to read:

Pursuant to the Act and Title 10, Chapter 1, CFR, Part 70, "Special Nuclear Material," to receive, possess and use up to 5 kilograms of uranium-235 for use in connection with operation of the reactor".

This change is requested because we are approaching the time when we will need to acquire additional fuel in order to maintain adequate excess reactivity for our experimental programs. We are seeking to obtain surplus fuel elements from a facility that has converted to FLIP fuel, rather than purchasing one element at a time. The present limit of 4 kilograms is not adequate if we are able to obtain a number of elements at one time.

Paragraph D.2 of our Technical Specifications states: "The excess reactivity above cold critical, without xenon, shall not exceed 4.9% delta K/K with experiments in place". No change is requested in this section. The change will apply only to the possession limit.

There are 122 fuel positions in our core, and we now possess 105 elements. Adequate storage is available either in the reactor tank or in dry storage wells.

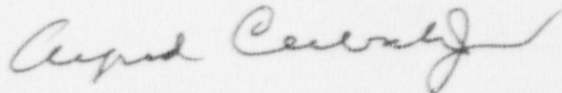


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We have concluded that the proposed change does not involve a significant hazard and the health and safety of the public will not be endangered.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alfred Clebsch, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Alfred Clebsch, Jr.
Reactor Administrator