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UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

9 - JAN 1950

Mr. William L. Borden, Executive Director
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Borden:

This is in acknowledgment of your letter of January 3, 1950 concerning the operating power levels of the Hanford piles.

The information which you received in November is not exactly correct in that the operating power levels of Piles D, B, and F were not raised during the period indicated in your letter.

A summary of the power level status of the individual piles is as follows:

- a. The operating power level of Pile D was raised to 275 MW in October, 1947. In May and June of 1949 the power level was advanced in two increments from 275 MW to 305 MW. This increase was noted in the Commission's report to the Joint Committee for the second quarter of 1949.
- b. Pile B was removed from standby and placed in service in July, 1948, at an operating level of 275 MW. It has been maintained at that level since that time.
- c. The operating level of Pile F was raised to 275 MW in November, 1947. It was maintained at that level until January 4, 1950, at which time it was advanced to 290 MW.
- d. Pile H was placed in operation in October, 1949 and is expected to reach a power level of 290 MW early this month. It is planned to advance it to the design level of 400 MW by March, 1950.

JAN 21 1950

CC: F. C. Scrammer, Manager of Hanford Operations

MASTER

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Mr. William L. Borden

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It had been anticipated that the power levels of the original piles would be higher by this time. The program for raising the levels was postponed temporarily with the occurrence of the apparent expansion in Pile D about which we informed the Joint Committee on July 21, 1949. Since July, the operation of Pile D at its advanced power level has been studied exhaustively and additional information has been developed on the ability of the pile materials to withstand higher temperatures. As a result it is now felt that sufficient experience and data have been obtained to permit further increases in power levels; hence the recent increase in the power level of Pile F.

The General Electric Company report on this subject to which you referred in your letter is not yet available. When it is received we shall be pleased to make a copy of it available to you.

Very truly yours,

SIGNED AND
DISPATCHED

A. V. Peterson
Acting Director of Production

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11-22-91, CG-PR-2

By TL BURDSTIE 11-27-91

Verified By J E Savelly 11-27-91

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