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NRC ISSUES FINAL DESIGN APPROVAL
FOR GE ADVANCED BOILING WATER REACTOR

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued a Final Design Approval (FDA) to GE Nuclear Energy for its U.S. advanced boiling water reactor (ABWR) design.

By issuing the FDA, the staff has determined that the standardized ABWR design may be referenced in utility applications for construction permits or operating licenses or in applications for combined licenses.

The ABWR design is for a nuclear power facility with a rated reactor power level of 3926 megawatts thermal, or about 1300 megawatts electric.

Issuance of the FDA completes the NRC staff's technical review of the ABWR design and includes the advice of the independent Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. The findings of the staff's evaluation are contained in a Final Safety Evaluation Report.

The FDA does not constitute a commitment for permits, design certification, or operating licenses for utilities referencing the design. Applications incorporating the FDA are subject to the NRC's applicable regulations.

The NRC staff and the ACRS will rely on the FDA in the Commission's rulemaking phase of the design certification process for the ABWR design. The rulemaking will provide for public comment and an opportunity for a hearing before an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

The FDA will expire five years after the date of issuance, unless extended by the NRC staff.

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