




OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

February 14, 1994

Action: Murley, NRR/
Beckjord, RES/
Parler, OGC/
Cranford, IRM
Cys: Taylor
Thompson
Milhoan
Blaha

MEMORANDUM FOR: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary 

SUBJECT: DESIGN CONTROL DOCUMENT (DCD) CHANGE
RESTRICTIONS FOLLOWING ISSUANCE OF A FINAL
DESIGN APPROVAL (FDA) (COMSECY-94-003)

In response to your January 13, 1994 memorandum the Commission has approved your proposal that, following issuance of an FDA, modifications may be made to the design control document (DCD) that may be necessitated by the staff's review of the DCD. These modifications may be made without any backfit or change restrictions as described in 10 CFR 50.109 or 10 CFR 52.63 until completion of the staff's review of the DCD. Editorial changes to other design certification documents, for consistency and clarity, are also allowed without restriction. However, substantive changes to the design certification documents (affecting the safety decisions) must be brought to the Commission's attention. The April 12, 1992 SRM's statement that "once the staff issues an FDA, the staff will be bound by the safety decisions rendered in the FDA" (concerning the adequacy of the design) was not intended to preclude the type of conforming changes contemplated by the staff in its proposal.

The staff, IRM, and OGC should continue to work toward our being able to store DCD's and related documents in a retrievable computer system. The advantages of such storage and retrieval capacities are many and are well worth efforts now to achieve. Even if the use of such systems is not feasible for the GE ABWR and CE System 80+ until after the rulemakings on these designs, the staff should explore to what extent the rulemaking documents for these designs can be captured in electronic form. The staff should provide the Commission with an annual status report on the agency's progress on these matters.

~~(EDG)~~ (NRR/RES/OGC/IRM)

(SECY Suspense: 12/94) 9400043

cc: The Chairman
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Remick
Commissioner de Planque
OGC
OIG
OCA