

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 04/30/01 EDO CONTROL: G20010122  
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FINAL REPLY:

Walter A. Simon  
General Atomics

TO:

Travers, EDO

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

\*\* GRN \*\*

CRC NO:

Travers, EDO

DESC:

Gas Turbine - Modular Helium Reactor (GT-MHR)  
Review

ROUTING:

Travers  
Paperiello  
Kane  
Norry  
Reiter  
Craig  
Burns  
Collins, NRR  
Cyr, OGC

DATE: 03/30/01

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

RES

Thadani

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:



March 22, 2001

Document Control Desk  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 2055-0001

Attn: Mr. William Travelers

Subject: Gas Turbine – Modular Helium Reactor (GT-MHR) Review

Dear Mr. Travers

Since the mid-1990s, the design of a Gas Turbine – Modular Helium Reactor (GT-MHR) has been advancing under the sponsorship of the DOE, private moneys, and foreign sources. While this effort has been largely aimed at dispositioning surplus weapons plutonium, current conditions in the energy sector and proposed DOE budgets indicate that the time and markets may ready for introduction of advanced nuclear systems. Accordingly, General Atomics, with the DOE, is considering a plan at the commercialization of the GT-MHR.

The NRC's statement of Policy for Regulation of Advanced Nuclear Power Plants" (8 July 1986) encourages early interaction between the agency and applicants to provide licensing guidance. Consistent with this policy, General Atomics is requesting to engage in exploratory discussions on how to proceed with the licensing of the GT-MHR. We expect these discussions to address a Licensing Plan we will be developing later this fiscal year and preapplication issues such as:

- Importation of technology from the Russian Federation where the majority of design development is centered, and
- The degree to which an application could build on the approach to licensing bases and Preliminary Safety Information Document (PSID) of the steam cycle MHTGR submitted to and reviewed by the NRC during the 1980s.

In addition, we would anticipate identifying any unique policy issues, and establish an estimate of cost and schedule for subsequent interactions.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Dr. Arkal Shenoy at (858) 455-2552.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter A. Simon".

Walter A. Simon  
Sr. Vice President