

November 1, 2001

Mr. Glen A. Watford, Manager
Fuel Engineering Services
Global Nuclear Fuel
P.O. Box 780
Wilmington, NC 28402

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR WITHHOLDING INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

Dear Mr. Watford:

By letter dated October 1, 2001, and affidavit dated October 2, 2001, you submitted responses to generic NRC questions pertaining to confirmation of the applicability of the GEXL14 correlation and associated R-Factor methodology for calculating SLMCPR values in cores containing GE14 fuel and requested that they be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 2.790. A non-proprietary version of the responses was not provided for placement in the NRC public document room and the Agencywide Documents Access and Management Systems Publicly Available Records System (ADAMS PARS) Library.

The affidavit stated that the submitted information should be considered exempt from mandatory public disclosure for the following reasons:

- a. Information that discloses a process, method, or apparatus, including supporting data and analyses, where prevention of its use by GNF-A's competitors without license from GNF-A constitutes a competitive economic advantage over other companies.
- b. Information which, if used by a competitor, would reduce his expenditure of resources or improve his competitive position in the design, manufacture, shipment, installation, assurance of quality, or licensing of a similar product.

We have reviewed your application and the material in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.790 and, on the basis of your statements, have determined that the submitted information sought to be withheld contains proprietary commercial information and should be withheld from public disclosure.

Therefore, the responses to the generic NRC questions regarding the confirmation of the applicability of the GEXL14 correlation and associated R-Factor methodology for calculating SLMCPR values in cores containing GE14 fuel, marked as proprietary, will be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790(b)(5) and Section 103(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Mr. Glen A. Watford

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Withholding from public inspection shall not affect the right, if any, of persons properly and directly concerned to inspect the documents. If the need arises, we may send copies of this information to our consultants working in this area. We will, of course, ensure that the consultants have signed the appropriate agreements for handling proprietary information.

If the basis for withholding this information from public inspection should change in the future such that the information could then be made available for public inspection, you should promptly notify the NRC. You also should understand that the NRC may have cause to review this determination in the future, for example, if the scope of a Freedom of Information Act request includes your information. In all review situations, if the NRC makes a determination adverse to the above, you will be notified in advance of any public disclosure.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at (301) 415-3016.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert Pulsifer, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate 1
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 711

cc: See next page

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Robert Pulsifer, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate 1
Division of Licensing Project Management
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Global Nuclear Fuel

Project No. 711

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