

June 6, 2002

Dr. George E. Apostolakis, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: GE NUCLEAR ENERGY LICENSING TOPICAL REPORT NEDC-33004P,
"CONSTANT PRESSURE POWER UPRATE," REVISION 1

Dear Dr. Apostolakis:

On March 6, 2002, the NRC staff from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) briefed the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena, on its review of the GE Nuclear Energy Licensing Topical Report (TR) NEDC-33004P, "Constant Pressure Power Uprate," Revision 1. The NRR staff also discussed the report with the full Committee during the 491st meeting of the ACRS, on April 12, 2002. By letter dated April 17, 2002, the ACRS forwarded to Chairman Meserve its comments regarding the staff's review of the licensing TR application. In that letter, the ACRS presented the following conclusions and recommendations:

- (1) The constant pressure power uprate methodology should be approved for application to boiling water reactor (BWR) power increases of up to 20 percent of the original licensed thermal power.
- (2) The Committee supports the staff's efforts to audit: (a) plant reload analyses used for power uprates, and (b) the application of reload analysis methods to transitional reloads for plants undergoing substantial power uprates.

Regarding the first item, the staff intends to issue a safety evaluation approving the licensing TR. However, the staff is developing generic guidance on large transient testing. The staff expects to approve the TR with the exception of the portion of the TR relating to the large transient testing program while the staff develops the generic guidance and considers stakeholder input to address the issue.

Regarding the second item, the staff will continue to consider the need for core reload analysis audits for power uprates on a case-by-case basis. Further, the staff intends to pay close attention to the application of core reload analysis methods for plants undergoing substantial

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power uprates, and will continue the practice of conducting audits of these methods for extended power uprates at boiling water reactors.

Sincerely,

/RA by Carl J. Paperiello Acting For/

William D. Travers
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Meserve
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan
Commissioner Merrifield
SECY

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