



General Electric Company
P.O. Box 780, Wilmington, NC 28402
910 675-5000

September 10, 1997

Mr. Cass R. Chappell
Package Certification Section
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Chappell:

Subject: Request for Renewal of NRC Certificate for the Model RA-2 and RA-3 Shipping Container - Consolidated Application

Reference: NRC Certificate of Compliance USA/4986/AF, Docket Number 71-4986

GE's Nuclear Energy Production (NEP) facility in Wilmington, North Carolina, hereby submits a consolidated application, pursuant to 10CFR71.38, for renewal of NRC Certificate of Compliance (COC) 4986. The current COC has an expiration date of 10/31/97.

This application includes the complete contents of the 3/17/92 application as amended by subsequent supplements. It also contains a minor change to the RA-3 wooden outer container that has no adverse impact to the safety of the package. No other changes are being requested.

General Electric has determined that portions of the information contained in this application are proprietary in nature. Therefore, pursuant to 10CFR2.790(b), the required affidavit, Attachment 1, requests that the information in this submittal that is designated as proprietary be withheld from public disclosure.

Attachment 2 contains an explanation of the minor change made to the RA-3 wooden outer container and revised drawing 769E229, Revision 8. This revised drawing is also in Section 3.0 of the consolidated application. The four cutouts in the honeycomb of the RA-3 outer are shown on the drawing to accommodate the four handles of the metal inner. This change does not impact the strength of the container to maintain the spacing of the fuel assemblies under Normal Conditions since the honeycomb is not a structural member. Likewise, the reduction of honeycomb will not effect the criticality analysis, because optimum moderation is assumed in the outer container for Normal Conditions. For Accident Conditions, no credit is taken for the outer container.

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Attachment 3 is the consolidated application. We are providing eight (8) copies of the consolidated application in three-ring binders. **Six of these books, with blue covers, contain GE Proprietary Information**, and two of these books, with white covers, have had the proprietary information removed. The books are accordingly identified. The consolidated application is dated 9/10/97, and all pages with footers are dated 9/10/97, Revision 0.

To facilitate your review, the following comments regarding the chronology of the COC's supplements are provided:

<u>Supplement Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>
April 16, 1992	This submittal contained the criticality evaluation for the shipment of two 9x9 fuel assemblies. It was replaced with Sections 7-I and 8-I contained in the June 27, 1995 submittal. These replaced Sections are in the consolidated application being submitted.
October 5, 1992 and November 18, 1997	These submittals contained the criticality evaluation for the shipment of two 10x10 fuel assemblies. They were replaced with Sections 7-J and 8-J contained in the June 27, 1995 submittal. These replaced Sections are in the consolidated application being submitted.
March 18, 1993	This submittal contained the criticality safety analysis, dated February 1, 1993, for shipment of 9x9 fuel assemblies with cluster separators. The submittal is contained in Sections 7-G and 8-G of the consolidated application being submitted.
June 27, 1995	This submittal contained the criticality safety analysis for the 8x8, 9x9 and 10x10 fuel assemblies with cluster separators in Sections 7 and 8 H, I, and J respectively. They are contained in these Sections of the consolidated application being submitted.
November 1, 1995	This submittal contains GE's response to NRC questions, dated 10/19/95, related to the June 27, 1995 submittal. The response is contained in Sections 7-K and 8-K of the consolidated application being submitted.
November 3, 1995	This submittal contained a correction to the November 1, 1995 submittal. The changes to pages iii, 7-2, and 8-2 are contained in the consolidated application being submitted.

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Sections of the COC that will require revising by this submittal:

- 1.b. Revision Number 34
- 3.b. Title and ID of Report or Application (new date of September 10, 1997)
- 5.(a)(3) Drawing 769E229, Revision 7 changes to Revision 8
- 14. Expiration Date (five year period)

References: General Electric Company application dated September 10, 1997

Please contact Rick Foleck on (910) 675-6299 or me on (910) 675-5889, if you have any questions or would like to discuss this submittal further.

Sincerely,

GE NUCLEAR ENERGY



R. J. Reda, Manager
Facility Licensing

/zb
attachments

cc: RJR-97-110