

April 4, 2002

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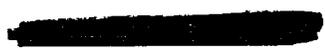
SUBJECT: PREAPPLICATION REVIEW OF THE GAS TURBINE-MODULAR HELIUM REACTOR (GT-MHR)

In a letter dated February 18, 2002, General Atomic described their desired plan and schedule for preapplication activities. The staff plans to implement the preapplication review for GT-MHR which parallels the approach for the pebble bed modular reactor design. Many of the activities and the information contained in SECY-01-0070, "Plan for Preapplication Activities on the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR)," and SECY-01-0207, "Legal and Financial Issues Related to Exelon's Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR)" also apply to the GT-MHR pre-application review. The Future Licensing and Inspection Readiness Assessment (FLIRA), October 2001, also discussed GT-MHR preapplication activities.

Similar to the PBMR preapplication review, the GT-MHR preapplication activities will be a joint RES/NRR/NMSS effort. Although RES will have the lead, this effort will involve close coordination with and support from NRR and NMSS. The staff will also interact with ACRS and other stakeholders. The staff estimates that it will take approximately 21 months to complete the preapplication review. A key element of this estimate is an assumption that the staff will receive timely submittals and responses from the applicant.

The results of GT-MHR preapplication review activities will be documented in SECY paper(s) which will discuss policy, technical and safety issues. The staff also plans to submit a SECY paper later this calendar year which discusses an advanced reactor research plan, including an overview of the research infrastructure necessary to support licensing of advanced reactor designs. Both the PBMR and GT-MHR preapplication reviews should provide important insight into the development of the research plan.

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