July 2, 2003

Mr. James F. Klapproth, Manager
Engineering & Technology
GE Nuclear Energy
175 Curtner Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF GE NUCLEAR ENERGY LICENSING TOPICAL REPORT NEDC-33075P, REVISION 2, "GENERAL ELECTRIC BOILING WATER REACTOR DETECT AND SUPPRESS SOLUTION - CONFIRMATION DENSITY" (TAC NO. MB5705)

Dear Mr. Klapproth:

On June 10, 2003, representatives of the NRC staff and GE Nuclear Energy (GENE) discussed possible options to facilitate the approval of Licensing Topical Report (LTR) NEDC-33075P, Revision 2, for the use of the computer code TRACG in the detect and suppress solution-confirmation density (DSS-CD) method for the automatic detection and suppression of stability-related power oscillations. The staff informed GENE at that time that we would prefer to have a separate LTR addressing the TRACG stability qualifications which would allow for a more detailed review while allowing the staff to complete the review of the DSS-CD LTR for its intended application on the current schedule. The staff believes that based on: (1) its review to date, (2) the limited duration of the event, and (3) the improvement in the critical power ratio (CPR) margins based, in part, on increased uncertainties, the staff can approve the DSS-CD LTR while the review of the TRACG methodology is being completed.

By letter dated June 23, 2003, GENE submitted a response to a request for additional information regarding, LTR NEDC-33075P, Revision 2. GENE agreed to provide a separate LTR, documenting the basis for applying TRACG in the DSS-CD method, by October 2003. GENE also agreed that should the staff's review of TRACG result in any changes to the DSS-CD LTR, GENE will revise the DSS-CD LTR as needed. This will be a condition in the DSS-CD safety evaluation.

The staff is preparing a request for additional information to clarify what information should be included in the new TRACG LTR to support the DSS-CD methodology.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (301) 415-1445.

Sincerely,

/RA by S. Dembek for/

Alan B. Wang, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 710

cc: See next page

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