



GE Energy

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**Subject: GE Response to Results of NRC Acceptance Review for ESBWR
Design Certification Application – Item 7 (TAC # MC8168)**

In the Reference 1 letter, the NRC indicated that additional information was required in certain areas of the ESBWR design certification application before the NRC could begin its review in those areas. Enclosures 1 and 2 contain additional information in the area of operating experience evaluation (item 7 in the Reference 1 letter). GE has prepared additional material to supplement the DCD in a number of areas. Within the item 7 discussion in the Reference 1 letter, there was a specific request that three technical issues be addressed:

- Generic Letter 96-05, "Periodic Verification of Design Basis Capability of Safety-Related Power Operated Valves,"
- Generic Letter 88-01, "NRC Position on IGSCC in BWR Austenitic Stainless Steel Piping," and
- Generic Letter 96-02, "Movement of Heavy Loads over Spent Fuel, over fuel in the Reactor Core, or over Safety-Related Equipment."

Enclosure 1 contains markups of various DCD sections to respond to each of these specific generic letters. These mark-ups will be incorporated in a future revision of the DCD.

In addition, Enclosure 2 contains a revision of DCD Section 1.C, "Industry Operating Experience." This enclosure lists all of the applicable Generic Letters and Bulletins from 1980 through July 2005. Applicability of Generic Letters and Bulletins was based on the review performed for the ABWR, which was completed through 1991.

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From 1992 through mid 2005, the applicable experience was based on the Generic Letters and Bulletins listed in the NRC review checklist. GE has reviewed the applicable experience reports from 1992 through mid 2005 and concluded that the ESBWR design either incorporates features that address the concern, the item will be a COL issue, or a combination of both. There is one issue that is still under review - Generic Letter 99-02, "Laboratory Testing of Nuclear Grade Activated Charcoal."

The Generic Letters and Bulletins reviewed for the ABWR have previously been factored into the GE design process and the application is similar for the ESBWR. GE will be undertaking a more rigorous review of the 1980 to 1991 experience to verify that the assessment previously made for the ABWR is still applicable and valid for the ESBWR.

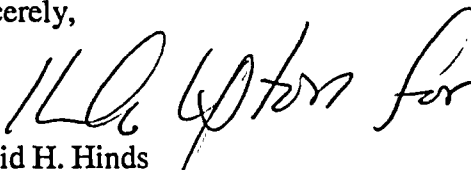
A revised version of DCD Section 1.C will be incorporated in a future revision of the DCD.

Enclosures 1 and 2 are provided in full compliance with GE's Quality Assurance (QA) Program (NEDO-11209-04A, *GE Nuclear Energy Quality Assurance Program Description*, March 31, 1989), which is NRC approved.

Consistent with this QA program, Enclosures 1 and 2 are identified as "Conditional Release - pending closure of design verifications." While GE has completed review of the technical accuracy and completeness of all the enclosures' content, and believes that the documents are accurate, complete and ready for NRC review, some internal GE documentation remains to be closed. Accordingly, the conditional release status is identified on the documents until closure of the internal documentation, which is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2005.

If you have any questions about the information provided here, please let me know.

Sincerely,


David H. Hinds
Manager, ESBWR

Reference:

1. MFN 05-103, Letter from U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to Steven A. Hucik, *Results of Acceptance Review for ESBWR Design Certification Application (TAC NO. MC8168)*, September 23, 2005

Enclosures:

1. MFN 05-117 – DCD Markups to Reflect Response to Generic Letter 96-05, Generic Letter 88-01, and Generic Letter 96-02
2. MFN 05-117 – Revised DCD Section 1.C, "Industry Operating Experience."

cc: WD Beckner USNRC (w/o enclosures)
AE Cubbage USNRC (with enclosures)
LA Dudes USNRC (w/o enclosures)
GB Stramback GE/San Jose (with enclosures)

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Enclosure 1

ENCLOSURE 1

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**DCD Markups to Reflect Response to Generic Letter 96-05,
Generic Letter 88-01, and Generic Letter 96-02**

Conditional Release – pending closure of design verifications

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Enclosure 2

ENCLOSURE 2

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**Revised DCD Section 1.C,
“Industry Operating Experience”**

Conditional Release – pending closure of design verifications