

January 11, 2006

Mr. David Hinds, Manager, ESBWR
General Electric Company
P.O. Box 780, M/C L60
Wilmington, NC 28402-0780

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LETTER NO. 4 FOR THE
ESBWR DESIGN CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Hinds:

By letter dated August 24, 2005, General Electric Company (GE) submitted an application for final design approval and standard design certification of the economic simplified boiling water reactor (ESBWR) standard plant design. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is performing a detailed review of this application. The NRC staff has determined that additional information is needed to continue portions of the review.

Enclosure 1 contains a request for additional information (RAI) regarding the ESBWR scaling analysis. This RAI was sent to you via electronic mail on December 8, 2005. On December 20, 2005, you agreed to provide a response to the requested information by May 26, 2006.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, you may contact me at (301) 415-2863 or lwr@nrc.gov or you may contact Amy Cubbage at (301) 415-2875 or aec@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Lawrence Rossbach, Project Manager
New Reactor Licensing Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 52-010

Enclosure: As stated

cc: See next page

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ACCESSION NO. ML060090465

OFFICE	NRBA/PM	NRBA/BC
NAME	LRossbach	LDudes
DATE	01/09/2006	01/11/2006

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Distribution for DCD RAI Letter No. 4 dated January 11, 2006

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Request for Additional Information (RAI) Regarding ESBWR Scaling Analysis

RAI Number	Reviewer	RAI Summary
6.3-1	Razzaque M. Landry R.	Update ESBWR scaling analysis for current ESBWR power level and design configuration.

Full Text of RAI:

As part of the pre-application review phase of ESBWR, GE performed a scaling analysis based on a model described in Reference 1, and presented a plot in Figure 1 of Reference 2 showing core collapsed water level (CCWL) as a function of reactor pressure. The ESBWR results were compared with GIST and GIRAFFE integral test data which agreed reasonably well. This demonstrated that the phenomena which impact the most important phase of the loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA) event, and in terms of the most critical variable CCWL, are in the same regime for the ESBWR and the test facilities. This comparison provided confirmation of system similarities because numerical proximity of the values of Pi-groups for the systems in question (ESBWR vs. test facilities) alone is not a sufficient basis to ensure similarity of the systems.

The staff understands that the ESBWR design presented in the design control document (DCD) has been modified from the pre-application reference design. The staff further believes that some of those modifications, as discussed below, can impact the phenomena that influence the CCWL.

- ESBWR core power increased from 4000 Mwt to 4500 Mwt (12.5 percent): According to Reference 1, core power is the only parameter that has a significant impact on the figure of merit (CCWL), and the CCWL subsequent to depressurization is inversely proportional to core power.
- Change of configuration: Changes in ESBWR design and operating parameters may revise the values of Pi-groups for inter-connected volumes and components (RPV, drywell, wetwell, GDCS, etc.). The most significant change of configuration is the GDCS gas space which is now connected to the drywell, instead of the wetwell.
- ESBWR limiting event: When the scaling analysis in Reference 2 was performed, the limiting accident for ESBWR was considered the GDCS line break. For the current ESBWR design, the limiting event is now considered the feedwater line break.

The ESBWR DCD does not provide an updated scaling analysis that demonstrates the adequacy of the test program, including PANDA/PANTHERS/GIRAFFE/GIST, when applied to the current ESBWR design. The staff, therefore, requests GE to provide the following additional information:

Enclosure

1. Provide an updated scaling analysis (similar to Reference 2) showing plots for CCWL vs. reactor pressure for modified ESBWR design and tests, including the revised Pi-values calculated using inter-connected volumes and components.
2. Provide a comparison of revised ESBWR Pi-values with that of the tests for other phases of LOCA.
3. Provide justification as to why confirmatory scaling analysis similar to the approach taken in Reference 2 for the blowdown and GDSCS transition phases are not necessary for other phases of LOCA, such as long-term cooling phase.

REFERENCES

1. M. di Marzo, "A Simplified Model of the BWR Depressurization Transient," Nuclear Engineering and Design, 205 (2001), pgs. 107-114, July 28, 2000.
2. Letter from S. A. Delvin (GE) to US NRC, "Response to Request for Additional Information (RAI) on Scaling Responses for ESBWR Pre-application Review - Additional Supplementary Information," November 6, 2003.

ESBWR

cc:

Mr. David H. Hinds, Manager
ESBWR
P.O. Box 780, M/C L60
Wilmington, NC 28402-0780

Mr. George B. Stramback
Manager, Regulatory Services
GE Nuclear Energy
1989 Little Orchard Street, M/C 747
San Jose, CA 95125

Mr. David Lochbaum, Nuclear Safety Engineer
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H Street, NW., Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-3919

Mr. Paul Gunter
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
1424 16th Street, NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. James Riccio
Greenpeace
702 H Street, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20001

Mr. Adrian Heymer
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 400
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Paul Leventhal
Nuclear Control Institute
1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036

Dr. Jack W. Roe
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Ron Simard
6170 Masters Club Drive
Suwanne, GA 30024

Mr. Brendan Hoffman
Research Associate on Nuclear Energy
and Environmental Program
215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Mr. Tom Clements
6703 Gude Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Ms. Patricia Campbell
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Mr. Glenn H. Archinoff
AECL Technologies
481 North Frederick Avenue
Suite 405
Gaithersburg, MD. 20877

Mr. Gary Wright, Director
Division of Nuclear Facility Safety
Illinois Emergency Management Agency
1035 Outer Park Drive
Springfield, IL 62704

Mr. Charles Brinkman
Westinghouse Electric Co.
Washington Operations
12300 Twinbrook Pkwy., Suite 330
Rockville, MD 20852

Mr. Ronald P. Vijuk
Manager of Passive Plant Engineering
AP1000 Project
Westinghouse Electric Company
P. O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

Mr. Ed Wallace, General Manager
Projects
PBMR Pty LTD
PO Box 9396
Centurion 0046
Republic of South Africa

Mr. Russell Bell
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 400
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Jerald S. Holm
Framatome ANP, Inc.
3315 Old Forest Road
P.O. Box 10935
Lynchburg, VA 24506-0935

Ms. Kathryn Sutton, Esq.
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Mr. Robert E. Sweeney
IBEX ESI
4641 Montgomery Avenue
Suite 350
Bethesda, MD 20814

Mr. Eugene S. Grecheck
Vice President, Nuclear Support Services
Dominion Energy, Inc.
5000 Dominion Blvd.
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Mr. George A. Zinke
Manager, Project Management
Nuclear Business Development
Entergy Nuclear, M-ECH-683
1340 Echelon Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213

E-Mail:

tom.miller@hq.doe.gov or
tom.miller@nuclear.energy.gov
mwetterhahn@winston.com
whorin@winston.com
gcesare@enercon.com
jerald.holm@framatome-anp.com
eddie.grant@exeloncorp.com
joseph_hegner@dom.com
steven.hucik@ge.com
david.hinds@ge.com
chris.maslak@ge.com
james1beard@ge.com
louis.quintana@gene.ge.com
wayne.massie@ge.com
kathy.sedney@ge.com
george.stramback@gene.ge.com