

April 25, 2006

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR WITHHOLDING INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
REGARDING GE RESPONSE TO RESULTS OF NRC ACCEPTANCE REVIEW
FOR ESBWR DESIGN CERTIFICATION APPLICATION (MFN 05-109)

Dear Mr. Hinds:

By letter dated October 20, 2005, and associated affidavit executed on October 20, 2005, by George B. Stramback, you indicated that the information contained in General Electric Company's (GE's) additional information related to the acceptance review for the economic simplified boiling water reactor (ESBWR) certification application, Enclosure 1, should be withheld as proprietary. You requested that this information be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 2.390.

A non-proprietary copy of this information was provided in Enclosure 2 and was placed in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Public Document Room and added to the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Public Electronic Reading Room (ADAMS Accession No. ML053000054).

The affidavits stated that the submitted information should be considered exempt from mandatory public disclosure for the following reasons:

1. The information discloses a process, method, or apparatus including supporting data and analyses, where prevention of its use by GE's competitors without license from GE constitutes a competitive economic advantage over other companies; and
2. The information, if used by a competitor, would reduce his expenditure of resources or improve his competitive position in the design, manufacture, shipment, installation, assure of quality, or licensing of a similar product.

We have reviewed your letter and affidavit in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.390 and, on the basis of your statements, have determined that the information sought to be withheld contains proprietary commercial information and should be withheld from public disclosure. Therefore, the submitted information marked as proprietary will be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.390(b)(5) and Section 103(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

D. Hinds

-2-

Withholding from public inspection shall not affect the right, if any, of persons properly and directly concerned to inspect the document. If the need arises, we may send copies of this information to our consultants working in this area. We will, of course, ensure that the consultants have signed the appropriate agreements for handling proprietary information.

If the basis for withholding this information from public inspection should change in the future such that the information could then be made available for public inspection, you should promptly notify the NRC. You also should understand that the NRC may have cause to review this determination in the future, for example, if the scope of a Freedom of Information Act request includes your information. In all review situations, if the NRC makes a determination adverse to the above, you will be notified in advance of any public disclosure.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at 301-415-4115.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Martha C. Barillas, Project Manager
ESBWR/ABWR Projects Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 52-010

cc: See next page

D. Hinds

-2-

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ESBWR

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