



## GE ENERGY

### Proprietary Notice

This letter transmits proprietary information in accordance with 10CFR2.390. Upon removal of Enclosure 1, the balance of the letter may be considered non-proprietary.

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MFN 06-109  
April 20, 2006

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

**Subject: GE Licensing Topical Report, NEDE-32176P, Revision 3, "TRACG Model Description, April 2006"**

This letter transmits Revision 3 to NEDE-32176P to fulfill the GE commitment to provide a revision to the TRACG Model Description report to support the ESBWR application. The following documents make reference to the subject commitment:

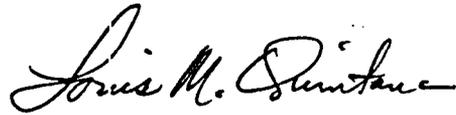
- Letter from W.D. Beckner (U.S. NRC) to L.M. Quintana (GE), Subject: *Reissuance Of Safety Evaluation Report Regarding The Application Of General Electric Nuclear Energy's TRACG Code To ESBWR Loss-Of-Coolant Accident (LOCA) ANALYSES (TAC Nos. MB6279, MB6280, MB6281, MB6282, MB6283, MB6801 AND M 67255)*. October 28, 2004
- Letter D.H. Hinds (GE) to Document Control Desk (U.S. NRC), Subject: *Submittal Schedule for Licensing Topical Reports Related to ESBWR (TAC # MC8168)*, MFN 05-140, November 22, 2005.

Please note that Enclosure 1 contains proprietary information of the type that GE maintains in confidence and withholds from public disclosure. The information has been handled and classified as proprietary to GE as indicated in its affidavit, also included in the report. The affidavit contained in Enclosure 2 identifies that the information contained in Enclosure 1 has been handled and classified as proprietary to GE. GE hereby requests that the information in Enclosure 1 be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 2.390 and 9.17.

Enclosure 1 is the proprietary version of NEDE-32176P Revision 3 and Enclosure 2 contains the affidavit.

If you have any questions, please contact James Harrison at (910) 675-6604 or myself.

Sincerely,



Louis M. Quintana  
Manager, Licensing

Project No. 717

Enclosures:

1. NEDE-32176P, Revision 3 - GE Proprietary Information (CD-ROM)
2. Affidavit, dated April 20, 2006.

cc: WD Beckner (USNRC (w/o enclosures))  
AE Cabbage USNRC (with enclosures)  
LA Dudes (USNRC (w/o enclosures))  
AA Lingenfelter (GNF/Wilmington)  
CL Heck (GE/Wilmington)  
JG Andersen (GNF/Wilmington)  
JF Klapproth (GE/Wilmington)  
GB Stramback (GE/San Jose)  
KK Sedney, (GE/San Jose)  
DH Hinds, (GE/Wilmington)  
W Marquino, (GE/Wilmington)

eDRF 0000-0050-3622-00

## ENCLOSURE 1 CD-ROM

MFN 06-109

GE Licensing Topical Report, NEDE-32176P, Revision 3,  
TRACG Model Description, April 2006

### GE Proprietary Information

#### PROPRIETARY INFORMATION NOTICE

This enclosure contains proprietary information of the General Electric Company (GE) and is furnished in confidence solely for the purpose(s) stated in the transmittal letter. No other use, direct or indirect, of the document or the information it contains is authorized. Furnishing this enclosure does not convey any license, expressed or implied, to use any patented invention or, except as specified above, any proprietary information of GE disclosed herein or any right to publish or make copies of the enclosure without prior written permission of GE. The header of each page in this enclosure carries the notation "GE Proprietary Information."

GE proprietary information is indicated by enclosing it in double brackets and the proprietary information is indicated in red lettering, e.g., [[proprietary information <sup>{3}</sup>]]. A "[[" marking at the beginning of a table, figure or paragraph closed with a "<sup>{3}</sup>]" marking at the end of the table, figure or paragraph is used to indicate that the entire content between the double brackets is proprietary. In each case, the superscript notation "<sup>{3}</sup>" refers to paragraph 3 of the affidavit, which provides the basis for the GE proprietary determination. Specific information that is not so marked is not GE proprietary.

ENCLOSURE 2

MFN 06-109

Affidavit

# General Electric Company

## AFFIDAVIT

I, **Louis M. Quintana**, state as follows:

- (1) I am Manager, Licensing, General Electric Company (“GE”), and have been delegated the function of reviewing the information described in paragraph (2) which is sought to be withheld, and have been authorized to apply for its withholding.
- (2) The information sought to be withheld is contained in the GE proprietary report, NEDE-32176P, Revision 3, *TRACG Model Description, Class III (GE Proprietary Information)*, dated April 2006. GE proprietary information is indicated by enclosing it in double brackets and the proprietary information is indicated in red lettering, e.g., [[proprietary information <sup>{3}</sup>]]. A “[{” marking at the beginning of a table, figure or paragraph closed with a “[<sup>{3}</sup>” marking at the end of the table, figure or paragraph is used to indicate that the entire content between the double brackets is proprietary. In each case, the superscript notation “<sup>{3}</sup>” refers to Paragraph (3) of the affidavit, which provides the basis for the GE proprietary determination.
- (3) In making this application for withholding of proprietary information of which it is the owner, GE relies upon the exemption from disclosure set forth in the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 USC Sec. 552(b)(4), and the Trade Secrets Act, 18 USC Sec. 1905, and NRC regulations 10 CFR 9.17(a)(4), and 2.390(a)(4) for “trade secrets” (Exemption 4). The material for which exemption from disclosure is here sought also qualify under the narrower definition of “trade secret”, within the meanings assigned to those terms for purposes of FOIA Exemption 4 in, respectively, Critical Mass Energy Project v. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 975F2d871 (DC Cir. 1992), and Public Citizen Health Research Group v. FDA, 704F2d1280 (DC Cir. 1983).
- (4) Some examples of categories of information which fit into the definition of proprietary information are:
  - a. Information that discloses a process, method, or apparatus, including supporting data and analyses, where prevention of its use by General Electric's competitors without license from General Electric constitutes a competitive economic advantage over other companies;
  - b. Information which, if used by a competitor, would reduce his expenditure of resources or improve his competitive position in the design, manufacture, shipment, installation, assurance of quality, or licensing of a similar product;

- c. Information which reveals aspects of past, present, or future General Electric customer-funded development plans and programs, resulting in potential products to General Electric;
- d. Information which discloses patentable subject matter for which it may be desirable to obtain patent protection.

The information sought to be withheld is considered to be proprietary for the reasons set forth in paragraphs (4)a. and (4)b. above.

- (5) To address 10 CFR 2.390 (b) (4), the information sought to be withheld is being submitted to NRC in confidence. The information is of a sort customarily held in confidence by GE, and is in fact so held. The information sought to be withheld has, to the best of my knowledge and belief, consistently been held in confidence by GE, no public disclosure has been made, and it is not available in public sources. All disclosures to third parties including any required transmittals to NRC, have been made, or must be made, pursuant to regulatory provisions or proprietary agreements which provide for maintenance of the information in confidence. Its initial designation as proprietary information, and the subsequent steps taken to prevent its unauthorized disclosure, are as set forth in paragraphs (6) and (7) following.
- (6) Initial approval of proprietary treatment of a document is made by the manager of the originating component, the person most likely to be acquainted with the value and sensitivity of the information in relation to industry knowledge. Access to such documents within GE is limited on a "need to know" basis.
- (7) The procedure for approval of external release of such a document typically requires review by the staff manager, project manager, principal scientist or other equivalent authority, by the manager of the cognizant marketing function (or his delegate), and by the Legal Operation, for technical content, competitive effect, and determination of the accuracy of the proprietary designation. Disclosures outside GE are limited to regulatory bodies, customers, and potential customers, and their agents, suppliers, and licensees, and others with a legitimate need for the information, and then only in accordance with appropriate regulatory provisions or proprietary agreements.
- (8) The information identified in paragraph (2), above, is classified as proprietary because it contains the detailed descriptions of the models including the equations, numerical procedures, and calculational logic of the TRACG program used for the evaluation of GE BWRs. This TRACG code has been developed by GE for over fifteen years, at a total cost in excess of three million dollars. The code development and validation of the results, as they relate to the BWR, was achieved at a significant cost to GE.

The development of the TRACG computer program along with the interpretation and application of the analytical results is derived from the extensive experience database that constitutes a major GE asset.

- (9) Public disclosure of the information sought to be withheld is likely to cause substantial harm to GE's competitive position and foreclose or reduce the availability of profit-making opportunities. The information is part of GE's comprehensive BWR safety and technology base, and its commercial value extends beyond the original development cost. The value of the technology base goes beyond the extensive physical database and analytical methodology and includes development of the expertise to determine and apply the appropriate evaluation process. In addition, the technology base includes the value derived from providing analyses done with NRC-approved methods.

The research, development, engineering, analytical and NRC review costs comprise a substantial investment of time and money by GE.

The precise value of the expertise to devise an evaluation process and apply the correct analytical methodology is difficult to quantify, but it clearly is substantial.

GE's competitive advantage will be lost if its competitors are able to use the results of the GE experience to normalize or verify their own process or if they are able to claim an equivalent understanding by demonstrating that they can arrive at the same or similar conclusions.

The value of this information to GE would be lost if the information were disclosed to the public. Making such information available to competitors without their having been required to undertake a similar expenditure of resources would unfairly provide competitors with a windfall, and deprive GE of the opportunity to exercise its competitive advantage to seek an adequate return on its large investment in developing these very valuable analytical tools.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing affidavit and the matters stated therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Executed on this 20th day of April 2006.



Louis M. Quintana  
Manager, Licensing