

August 20, 2007

Mr. Ronnie L. Gardner, Manager
Site Operations and Regulatory Affairs
AREVA NP
3315 Old Forrest Road
P.O. Box 10935
Lynchburg, VA 24506-0935

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE FOR REVIEW OF ANP-10284, "U.S. EPR INSTRUMENTATION AND CONTROL DIVERSITY AND DEFENSE-IN-DEPTH METHODOLOGY TOPICAL REPORT" (TAC MD5884)

Dear Mr. Gardner:

By letter dated June 20, 2007 (ML071760187), AREVA NP (AREVA) submitted for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review Topical Report (TR) ANP-10284, "U.S. EPR Instrumentation and Control Diversity and Defense-in-Depth Methodology Topical Report," (ML071760188). The NRC staff has performed an acceptance review of the subject TR and has determined that AREVA has not provided the level of detail that would normally be expected in a TR per NRC Office Instruction LIC-500. However, reviewing this document will help advance our efforts with industry to determine what requirements are necessary for digital I&C and related issues. Therefore, the staff has agreed to begin the review, and to advise AREVA NP that there will be multiple rounds of Requests for Additional Information (RAIs).

The staff expects to issue any RAIs by April 30, 2008, and issue its draft safety evaluation report by September 30, 2008. The staff also estimates that the review will require approximately 580 staff hours, including project management efforts.

The review schedule milestones and estimated review costs were discussed in a telephone conference between Ronda Daflucas of your staff and the NRC staff on August 13, 2007. The schedule and cost estimates are based on a timely resolution of RAIs that will be submitted to you on or before April 30, 2008. Should there be a need for more RAIs beyond April 30, 2008, the estimates will be adjusted accordingly.

Per AREVA's request, post-submittal meetings and or telephone conferences will be scheduled at a mutually agreed upon time, most likely prior to issuing RAIs.

R. Gardner

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Section 170.21 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* requires that TRs are subject to fees based on the full cost of the review. You did not request a fee exemption; therefore, staff hours will be billed accordingly.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Getachew Tesfaye, Sr. Project Manager
EPR Projects Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Project No. 733

cc: DC AREVA - EPR Mailing List

R. Gardner

-2-

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