



GE Energy

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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.

January 21, 2007
MFN 07-040

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

Subject: Part 21 Notification: Adequacy of GE Thermal-Mechanical Methodology, GSTRM

The NRC staff requested that GE Energy, Nuclear (GE) evaluate the potential non-conservatism in the GE Thermal-Mechanical Methodology, GSTRM, identified in the ESBWR design certification review in accordance with the provisions of 10CFR Part 21. The staff was concerned that qualification of GSTRM against high exposure fuel data could indicate that GSTRM under-predicts fuel centerline temperature.

GE has completed an extensive evaluation and concluded that GSTRM and its associated statistical methodology, in conjunction with the exposure dependent Linear Heat Generate Rate (LHGR) limit, is adequate for fuel licensing and design calculations within its qualification domain. Therefore, this does not constitute a reportable condition under 10CFR21. A summary of the evaluation is attached as Enclosure 1.

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. The affidavit contained in Enclosure 3 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 the evaluation and Enclosure 2 is a non-proprietary version. Enclosure 3 contains the affidavit.

If you have any questions on this information, please call me at (910) 675-6608.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Post". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jason S. Post
Safety Evaluation Program Manager

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PRC File
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Enclosures:

1. Evaluation of GE Thermal-Mechanical Model, GSTRM (GE Proprietary Information)
2. Evaluation of GE Thermal-Mechanical Model, GSTRM (Non-Proprietary Information)
3. Affidavit