

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: / / EDO CONTROL: G20070641
DOC DT: 08/31/07
FINAL REPLY:

Marilyn C. Kray
NuStart Energy Development

TO:

Chairman Klein

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN ** CRC NO: 07-0609

DESC:

Confirmation of AP1000 Design-Centered Work Group
Reference Plant (EDATS: SECY-2007-0331)

ROUTING:

Reyes
Virgilio
Kane
Ash
Ordaz
Burns
Travers, RII
Cyr, OGC

DATE: 09/17/07

ASSIGNED TO:

NRO

CONTACT:

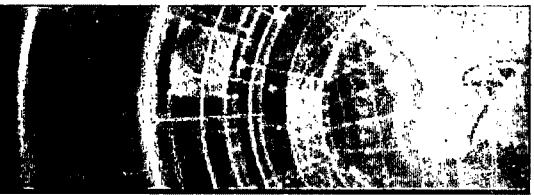
Borchardt

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

For Appropriate Action.

EDATS

Electronic Document and Action Tracking System



EDATS Number: SECY-2007-0331

Source: SECY

General Information

Assigned To: NRO

OEDO Due Date: NONE

Other Assignees:

SECY Due Date: NONE

Subject: Confirmation of API1000 Design-Centered Work Group Reference Plant

Description:

CC Routing: Region II; OGC

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Other Information

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Roadmap Item: NO

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OEDO Concurrence: NO

OCM Concurrence: NO

OCA Concurrence: NO

Special Instructions: For Appropriate Action.

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AUTHOR: Marilyn Kray
AFFILIATION: TN
ADDRESSEE: Dale Klein
SUBJECT: Confirmation of AP1000 Design-Centered Work Group Reference Plant

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DATE DUE: **DATE SIGNED:**

EDO --G20070641



August 31, 2007

The Honorable Dale E. Klein
Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

**SUBJECT: Confirmation of AP1000 Design-Centered Work Group
Reference Plant**

Dear Chairman Klein:

In the August 22, 2007 Commission briefing on new reactor issues, there were questions from the Commission associated with whether it is appropriate for the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA's) Bellefonte combined license (COL) application to be the AP1000 Reference Plant. The NuStart member companies confirm that TVA's Bellefonte application should remain as the reference plant for licensing of the AP1000 technology.

The identification of Bellefonte as the selected site for the generic AP1000 COL application was first communicated to the NRC by NuStart letter dated November 17, 2005. This selection was the result of an exhaustive process that evaluated the technical, environmental and financial attributes of multiple sites. The evaluation process included participation from all NuStart members. Based on this evaluation, the NuStart Management Committee unanimously selected Bellefonte as the AP1000 site. Subsequent to this selection, the NRC introduced the concept of the Design Centered Review approach. The Management Committee then unanimously designated Bellefonte as the AP1000 "Reference Plant," as defined in the Design Centered Review process. This designation of Bellefonte as the Reference COL (R-COL) was communicated to the NRC in NuStart responses to RIS 2006-06 and RIS 2007-08.

The Bellefonte site offers unique learning opportunities for the industry in that it does not currently house an existing operating unit; however, it does house partially completed units. The legacy of licensing information compiled for the previously issued Construction Permit and the potential to use some of the existing site facilities such as the switchyard, intake structures, and cooling towers add to the attractiveness of the site.

As the Executive Director of Operations Luis Reyes and the Director of the Office of New Reactors Bill Borchardt observed during the Commission briefing, the identification of the R-COL for a given Design-Centered Work Group (DCWG) is the responsibility of the prospective applicants who are members of the DCWG. In the case of the AP1000 DCWG, the selection of the Bellefonte site as the R-COL application included concurrence by NuStart management and all of the AP1000 DCWG members (all of whom are members of the NuStart consortium).

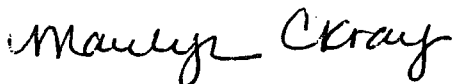
We understand the primary purpose for the designation of a R-COL application is for it to serve as the "carrier" for DCWG-standard content. The Staff's review of the standard content in the R-COL application is virtually independent of the site with which the R-COL is associated. In the case of the AP1000 DCWG, the extent of standardization is carefully controlled, as indicated in the standardization matrix attached to the RIS responses discussed above, and will be identified explicitly in the R-COL and S-COL applications using left-margin annotations, as shared with the Staff in several pre-application interactions over the past year. The NuStart members are jointly developing the Bellefonte COL application. In particular, the standard sections are a result of significant contributions by the other AP1000 applicants and will be used in those subsequent applications.

We believe that the Design Centered Review approach developed by the staff will facilitate effective and efficient use of NRC resources, regardless of the construction schedules of the R-COL or S-COL projects. Most prospective applicants have indicated that final construction decisions have not been made. Similarly, even the preliminary schedules announced by potential applicants are subject to change.

NuStart has figured prominently in the development of the design-centered review approach, which resulted in the formation of DCWGs to facilitate increased efficiency on the part of the industry and the Staff. We appreciate the Staff's support in the extensive pre-application interactions that have occurred over the past two years. Director Borchardt also observed during the Commission briefing that the AP1000 DCWG has sequenced its R-COL and S-COL applications based on Bellefonte as the R-COL. Accordingly, we also appreciate the efforts of the Staff and the Commission in minimizing disruptions as would certainly result if a change in designation of the R-COL application was to occur at this late date.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (610) 765-5610.

Sincerely yours,



Marilyn C. Kray
President
NuStart Energy Development

cc: The Honorable Edward McGaffigan, Jr., Commissioner, NRC
The Honorable Gregory B. Jaczko, Commissioner, NRC
The Honorable Peter B. Lyons, Commissioner, NRC
Mr. Luis A. Reyes, Executive Director for Operations, NRC ✓
Mr. R. William Borchardt, Director, Office of New Reactors, NRC
Mr. David B. Matthews, Director, Office of New Reactors, NRC