

May 20, 2008

Mr. Robert E. Brown
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs
GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy
3901 Castle Hayne Road MC A-50
Wilmington, NC 28401

**SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT WITH OPEN ITEMS FOR CHAPTER 19
REGARDING THE ESBWR DESIGN CERTIFICATION REVIEW**

Dear Mr. Brown:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff is preparing Safety Evaluation Reports (SERs) with Open Items (OIs) for each chapter of the Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) design certification application submitted by GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas, LLC (GEH) on August 24, 2005.

The staff's SER with OIs for Chapter 19 was recently provided to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) ESBWR Design-Centered Subcommittee to support the upcoming meeting scheduled to be held on June 3, 2008. The ACRS Full Committee meeting will be held at a future date. The staff is continuing to review the design certification application, and may identify additional open items as a result of future GEH submittals such as design control document (DCD) revisions and topical report submittals.

The enclosed SER with OIs is being provided to GEH for review of proprietary information and factual accuracy. We do not believe that the SER with OIs for Chapter 19 contains proprietary information; however, we will delay placing this document in the public document room for a period of 10 working days from the date of this letter to provide you with the opportunity to comment on the proprietary aspects.

R. Brown

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If you believe that any information in the enclosure is proprietary, please identify such information line by line and define the basis pursuant to the criteria of 10 CFR 2.390.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jeffrey Cruz, Chief
ESBWR/ABWR Projects Branch 1
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-010

Enclosures:

1. Safety Evaluation Report with Open Items -
Chapter 19

cc: See next page (w/o enclosures)

R. Brown

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1. Safety Evaluation Report with Open Items – Chapter 19

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