



**HITACHI**

GE-Hitachi  
Nuclear Energy

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Two White Flint North  
11545 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738  
Att: John Buckley

May 2, 2008

Subject: Vallecitos Boiling Water Reactor Incident Report  
Reference: License DPR-1, Docket 50-18

The following report is submitted pursuant to the requirements of License Condition 5d(1) of GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas LLC, Facility License DPR-1 for The Vallecitos Boiling Water Reactor (VBWR). License condition 5d(1) requires: "A report of any indication of or occurrence of a possible unsafe condition relating to the facility or public. For each occurrence, GE-Hitachi shall promptly notify by telephone or telegraph the Director of the appropriate AEC Regional Compliance Office listed in Appendix D of 10CFR20 and shall submit within 10 days a report in writing to the Director, Division of Reactor Licensing, with a copy to the Regional Compliance Office."

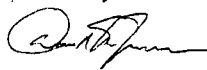
On April 23<sup>rd</sup> at approximately 10 AM PDT while cutting steel shielding components inside the VBWR containment, hot slag contacted licensed material contained inside a 55 gallon drum located about 40 feet below the cutting location. This melted the plastic material inside the drum containing cloth filters. The material smoldered for several minutes before being extinguished. No open flames were observed. Clean up efforts determined the extent was confined to one 55 gallon drum containing ~ 108 filters. The bags surrounding 36 of the filters were damaged. The remainder of the filters were unaffected. The drum was undamaged. Area and personnel air samples taken in the area indicate no abnormal radiological results; therefore there was no radiological release to the workers in the area or the public.

The impacted material was sampled to determine the isotopic makeup to determine if the quantity of material involved was greater than five times the lowest annual limit on intake specified in 10CFR20 Appendix B. Conservative estimates indicate that quantity of licensed material affected was less than 5 times the Annual Limit on Intake of licensed material contained in the drum. More accurate analysis is in

process, but has been delayed since the material is potential asbestos containing material.

Vallecitos Nuclear Center has initiated a formal incident investigation in accordance with the site procedures to determine the root cause and implement appropriate corrective actions. If you need additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



David W. Turner  
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David W. Turner,  
Manager  
Vallecitos Nuclear Center

CC: USNRC Region IV