

January 16, 2009

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

**Subject:** Installation of Marathon-5S Control Rod Assemblies

- References:**
- 1) Letter from R. E. Brown (GE) to Document Control Desk (USNRC),  
Subject: GE Licensing Topical Report, NEDE-33284P, Revision 0,  
"Marathon-5S Control Rod Assembly," September 2006, MFN 06-351,  
September 27, 2006 (ADAMS Accession No. ML062760212)
  - 2) Letter from J. F. Harrison (GEH) to Document Control Desk (USNRC),  
Subject: GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy Licensing Topical Report, NEDE-  
33284P, Revision 1, "Marathon-5S Control Rod Assembly," November  
2007, MFN 07-619, November 19, 2007 (ADAMS Accession No.  
ML073320285)

On September 27, 2006, General Electric (GE) submitted the Reference 1 Licensing Topical Report (LTR) for the Marathon-5S Control Rod Assembly, which incorporates certain incremental changes relative to the approved Marathon design. In response to NRC's request, the Reference 2 revision to the LTR was submitted in November 2007 incorporating RAI responses into the report in order to facilitate the review. There were no changes to the design.

Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon) has a significant interest in installing Marathon-5S control rods in several of our boiling water reactors. Therefore, Exelon requests that the NRC give a high priority to the completion of the review of the LTR. Exelon would like to install "lead use" Marathon-5S control rods in Peach Bottom Unit 3 during the Fall 2009 refueling outage. The installation of the "lead use" control rods should fulfill the requirements of the Marathon-5S program requested by the NRC. In order to accomplish

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this installation, including time for contracting, manufacturing and completion of the necessary engineering change packages, the NRC's completed safety evaluation is needed by the end of March 2009.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 610-765-5525 or James Tusar at 610-765-5818.

Sincerely,



David P. Helker  
Manager, Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC

cc: S. J. Collins, Regional Administrator, Region I, USNRC  
F. L. Bower, USNRC Senior Resident Inspector, PBAPS  
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