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Proprietary Notice

This letter forwards proprietary information in accordance with 10CFR2.390. Upon the removal of Enclosure 2, the balance of this letter may be considered non-proprietary.

MFN 09-790

Docket No. 52-010

December 15, 2009

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

Subject: Response to Portion of NRC Request for Additional Information Letter No. 398 Related to ESBWR Design Certification Application – Fuel Racks - RAI Number 9.1-148

The purpose of this letter is to submit the GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy (GEH) response to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Request for Additional Information (RAI) 9.1-148 sent by NRC Letter 398, Reference 1.

GEH response to RAI Number 9.1-148 is addressed in Enclosure 1. Enclosure 2 contains the LTR markups associated with this response. Enclosure 2 contains GEH proprietary information as defined by 10 CFR 2.390. GEH customarily maintains this information in confidence and withholds it from public disclosure. GEH has not submitted a nonproprietary version of Enclosure 2 in accordance with NRC Information Notice 2009-07, Requirements for Submittals, (2): "In instances in which a nonproprietary version would be of no value to the public because of the extent of the proprietary information, the agency does not expect a nonproprietary version to be submitted."

The affidavit contained in Enclosure 3 identifies that the information contained in Enclosure 2 has been handled and classified as proprietary to GEH. GEH hereby requests that the information in Enclosure 2 be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with the provisions of 10 CFR 2.390 and 9.17.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Kingston
Vice President, ESBWR Licensing

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MRO

Reference:

1. MFN 09-768, Letter from U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to Jerald G. Head, *Request for Additional Information Letter No. 398 Related to ESBWR Design Certification Application*, December 2, 2009

Enclosures:

1. Response to Portion of NRC Request for Additional Information Letter No. 398 Related to ESBWR Design Certification Application – Fuel Racks - RAI Number 9.1-148
2. Response to Portion of NRC Request for Additional Information Letter No. 398 Related to ESBWR Design Certification Application – Fuel Racks - RAI Number 9.1-148 – DCD and LTR Markups – GEH Proprietary Information
3. Response to Portion of NRC Request for Additional Information Letter No. 398 Related to ESBWR Design Certification Application – Fuel Racks - RAI Number 9.1-148 – Affidavit

cc: AE Cabbage USNRC (with enclosures)
JG Head GEH/Wilmington (with enclosures)
DH Hinds GEH/Wilmington (with enclosures)
TL Enfinger GEH/Wilmington (with enclosures)
eDRF Section 0000-0110-4458

Enclosure 1

MFN 09-790

**Response to Portion of NRC Request for
Additional Information Letter No. 398
Related to ESBWR Design Certification Application**

Fuel Racks

RAI Number 9.1-148

NRC RAI 9.1-148

By employing the response spectrum method to determine the dynamic response of fuel racks to Safe Shutdown Earthquake (SSE), Loss of Coolant Accident (LOCA) and SRVD loads, the applicant stated in Sections 1.5.3, 2.4.8 and 3.4.8 that the modal responses are combined in accordance with the grouping method established in RG 1.92. The staff noted that the grouping method was established in RG 1.92, rev. 1; however, this method was not included in RG 1.92, rev. 2. The staff also noted that Sections 2 and 3 referred to RG 1.92, rev. 2 while Section 1 did not identify which revision of RG 1.92 was utilized. The applicant is requested to address this apparent inconsistency.

The staff recognizes that although RG 1.92, rev. 2 provides a number of new methods for combining modal responses, the methods established in RG 1.92, rev. 1 are still applicable. However, as described in C.1.4.1 and D of RG 1.92, when 1.92, rev. 1 methods are used the missing mass contribution needs to be included, which is particularly important for an adequate estimate of support reactions. The applicant used the 10% rule for including the missing mass, which the staff considers non-conservative. Based on the 10% rule, the applicant excluded the missing mass effect in Sections 1 and 2, and included the missing mass in Section 3. The staff requests that the applicant consider the missing mass effect for modal combinations based on the grouping method in Sections 1 and 2.

GEH Response

Grouping methods described in Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.92, Revision 1, NEDC-33373P are used to combine modal responses. Accordingly, Sections 1.11, 2.7 and 3.7 of NEDC-33373P will be revised to reference Revision 1 of RG 1.92. Notes will be added in Sections 1.10 and 2.6 of NEDC-33373P to justify that the missing masses are small and do not affect the results in the report.

In addition, DCD Tier 2, Subsections 9.1.1.5 and 9.1.2.4 will be revised to clarify that Revision 1 of RG 1.92 is used as described above.

DCD/LTR Impact

DCD Tier 2, Subsections 9.1.1.5 and 9.1.2.4 will be revised as shown in the attached markups.

Sections 1.5.3, 1.10, 1.11, 2.4.8, 2.6, 2.7 and 3.7 of LTR NEDC-33373P will be revised as shown in the attached markups.

Enclosure 3

MFN 09-790

**Response to Portion of NRC Request for
Additional Information Letter No. 398
Related to ESBWR Design Certification Application**

Fuel Racks

RAI Number 9.1-148

Affidavit

GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas, LLC

AFFIDAVIT

I, **David A. Piepmeyer**, state as follows:

- (1) I am the Senior Project Manager, ESBWR Certification, GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy ("GEH"), and have been delegated the function of reviewing the information described in paragraph (2) which is sought to be withheld, and have been authorized to apply for its withholding.
- (2) The information sought to be withheld is contained in enclosure 2 of GEH's letter, MFN 09-790, Mr. Richard E. Kingston to U.S. Nuclear Energy Commission, entitled "Response to Portion of NRC Request for Additional Information Letter No. 398 Related to ESBWR Design Certification Application – Fuel Racks - RAI Number 9.1-148" dated December 15, 2009. The proprietary information in enclosure 2, entitled "*Response to Portion of NRC Request for Additional Information Letter No. 398 Related to ESBWR Design Certification Application – Fuel Racks – RAI Number 9.1-148 – DCD and LTR Markups - GEH Proprietary Information*," is delineated by a [[dotted underline inside double square brackets^{3}]]. Figures and large equation objects are identified with double square brackets before and after the object. In each case, the superscript notation ^{3} refers to Paragraph (3) of this affidavit, which provides the basis for the proprietary determination.
- (3) In making this application for withholding of proprietary information of which it is the owner or licensee, GEH relies upon the exemption from disclosure set forth in the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 USC Sec. 552(b)(4), and the Trade Secrets Act, 18 USC Sec. 1905, and NRC regulations 10 CFR 9.17(a)(4), and 2.390(a)(4) for "trade secrets" (Exemption 4). The material for which exemption from disclosure is here sought also qualify under the narrower definition of "trade secret", within the meanings assigned to those terms for purposes of FOIA Exemption 4 in, respectively, Critical Mass Energy Project v. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 975F2d871 (DC Cir. 1992), and Public Citizen Health Research Group v. FDA, 704F2d1280 (DC Cir. 1983).
- (4) Some examples of categories of information which fit into the definition of proprietary information are:
 - a. Information that discloses a process, method, or apparatus, including supporting data and analyses, where prevention of its use by GEH's competitors without license from GEH constitutes a competitive economic advantage over other companies;
 - b. Information which, if used by a competitor, would reduce his expenditure of resources or improve his competitive position in the design, manufacture, shipment, installation, assurance of quality, or licensing of a similar product;

- c. Information which reveals aspects of past, present, or future GEH customer-funded development plans and programs, resulting in potential products to GEH;
- d. Information which discloses patentable subject matter for which it may be desirable to obtain patent protection.

The information sought to be withheld is considered to be proprietary for the reasons set forth in paragraphs (4)a. and (4)b. above.

- (5) To address 10 CFR 2.390(b)(4), the information sought to be withheld is being submitted to NRC in confidence. The information is of a sort customarily held in confidence by GEH, and is in fact so held. The information sought to be withheld has, to the best of my knowledge and belief, consistently been held in confidence by GEH, no public disclosure has been made, and it is not available in public sources. All disclosures to third parties, including any required transmittals to NRC, have been made, or must be made, pursuant to regulatory provisions or proprietary agreements which provide for maintenance of the information in confidence. Its initial designation as proprietary information, and the subsequent steps taken to prevent its unauthorized disclosure, are as set forth in paragraphs (6) and (7) following.
- (6) Initial approval of proprietary treatment of a document is made by the manager of the originating component, the person most likely to be acquainted with the value and sensitivity of the information in relation to industry knowledge, or subject to the terms under which it was licensed to GEH. Access to such documents within GEH is limited on a "need to know" basis.
- (7) The procedure for approval of external release of such a document typically requires review by the staff manager, project manager, principal scientist, or other equivalent authority for technical content, competitive effect, and determination of the accuracy of the proprietary designation. Disclosures outside GEH are limited to regulatory bodies, customers, and potential customers, and their agents, suppliers, and licensees, and others with a legitimate need for the information, and then only in accordance with appropriate regulatory provisions or proprietary agreements.
- (8) The information identified in paragraph (2) is classified as proprietary because it contains details of GEH's design and licensing methodology. The development of the methods used in these analyses, along with the testing, development and approval of the supporting methodology was achieved at a significant cost to GEH.
- (9) Public disclosure of the information sought to be withheld is likely to cause substantial harm to GEH's competitive position and foreclose or reduce the availability of profit-making opportunities. The information is part of GEH's comprehensive BWR safety and technology base, and its commercial value extends beyond the original development cost. The value of the technology base goes beyond the extensive physical database and analytical methodology and

includes development of the expertise to determine and apply the appropriate evaluation process. In addition, the technology base includes the value derived from providing analyses done with NRC-approved methods.

The research, development, engineering, analytical and NRC review costs comprise a substantial investment of time and money by GEH.

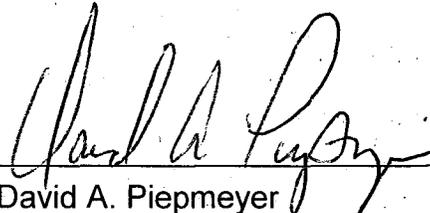
The precise value of the expertise to devise an evaluation process and apply the correct analytical methodology is difficult to quantify, but it clearly is substantial.

GEH's competitive advantage will be lost if its competitors are able to use the results of the GEH experience to normalize or verify their own process or if they are able to claim an equivalent understanding by demonstrating that they can arrive at the same or similar conclusions.

The value of this information to GEH would be lost if the information were disclosed to the public. Making such information available to competitors without their having been required to undertake a similar expenditure of resources would unfairly provide competitors with a windfall, and deprive GEH of the opportunity to exercise its competitive advantage to seek an adequate return on its large investment in developing and obtaining these very valuable analytical tools.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing affidavit and the matters stated therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Executed on this 15th day of December 2009.



David A. Piepmeyer
GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas, LLC