

BWR OWNERS' GROUP

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Proprietary Notice

This letter transmits GEH proprietary information in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390. Upon removal of Enclosure 1, the balance of the letter may be considered non-proprietary.

Project 691

BWROG-09091
December 17, 2009

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

SUBJECT: Request for Closure of a Meeting Between NRC and the BWR Owners' Group Scheduled for January 14, 2010

ENCLOSURE: Presentation – Proprietary Information
Redacted Presentation – Non-Proprietary Information
Affidavit

Attention: Chief, Information Management Branch
Division of Program Management

The BWR Owners' Group (BWROG) requests that the meeting between the NRC and the BWROG planned for January 14, 2010 be closed in accordance with 10 CFR 9.17(a)(4). This meeting is the third in a series of discussions regarding specific topics associated with BWR ECCS Suction Strainers conducted at request of NRC management. At this meeting the BWROG intends to address NRC questions about the analysis of downstream effects of debris on GNF fuel used in BWR's, and support an in-depth technical discussion of this analysis with the NRC Staff.

We are providing the attached affidavit from GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas LLC (GEH) to support this request and facilitate formal scheduling of this meeting. We are providing draft presentation materials containing proprietary information with this transmittal, and will provide final presentation materials shortly before the meeting along with another affidavit. The nature of the proprietary information reflects GE Global Nuclear Fuel (GNF) fuel flow characteristics and GEH LOCA analysis information.

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If you have any questions concerning this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Fred Emerson, the BWROG Project Manager (910-819-5615).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas W. Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Douglas W. Coleman
BWR Owners' Group Chairman

cc: F. P. "Ted" Schiffley, BWROG Vice Chairman
Joseph Golla, NRR
Michelle Honcharik, NRR
Craig Nichols, BWROG Program Manager
BWROG Primary Representatives

Enclosures:

1. Presentation – Proprietary Information
2. Redacted Presentation – Non-Proprietary Information
3. Affidavit

GEH Proprietary Information

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Edward D. Schrull**, state as follows:

- (1) I am Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, Services Licensing, GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas LLC (“GEH”). I 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 1 of the letter BWROG-09091, D.W. Coleman, BWR Owners’ Group Chairman, to the Document Control Desk (USNRC), “Request for Closure of a Meeting Between NRC and the BWR Owners’ Group Scheduled for January 14, 2010,” dated December 17, 2009, containing draft presentation materials to be used in a proposed meeting between NRC and the BWR Owners’ Group on January 14, 2010, related to addressing NRC questions about the analysis of downstream effects of debris on GNF fuel used in Boiling Water Reactors (BWRs). The proprietary information in Enclosure 1, is identified by a dark red font and dotted underline placed within double square brackets, [[This sentence is an example.^{3}]]. Figures and other large 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), above, is classified as proprietary because it contains detailed results and conclusions regarding supporting evaluations of the effects on nuclear fuel performance of containment debris that bypasses the ECCS Suction Strainers for a GEH BWR. The analysis utilized analytical models and methods, including computer codes, which GEH has developed, obtained NRC approval of, and applied to perform evaluations of containment debris effects on the nuclear fuel for a GEH BWR.

The development of the evaluation process along with the interpretation and application of the analytical results is derived from the extensive experience database that constitutes a major GEH asset.

- (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.

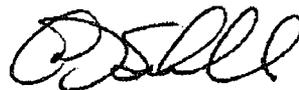
The precise value of the expertise to devise an evaluation process and apply the correct analytical methodology is difficult to quantify, but it clearly is substantial.

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 17th day of December 2009.



Edward D. Schrull
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs
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