

GENERAL ELECTRIC

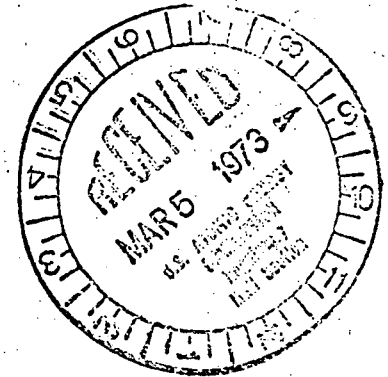
NUCLEAR ENERGY
DIVISION

NUCLEAR FUEL DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, 175 CURTNER AVE., SAN JOSE, CALIF. 95125
Phone (408) 297-3000, TWX NO. 910-338-0116

February 27, 1973

United States Atomic Energy Commission
Directorate of Licensing
7920 Norfolk Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20014



Attention: Mr. S. H. Smiley, Deputy Director
Fuels and Materials

Subject: Amendment No. 33, Docket 50-268
Midwest Fuel Recovery Plant
Extension of Construction Completion Date

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to AEC Regulations, Title 10 CFR Part 50.90, the General Electric Company hereby requests extension of the latest construction completion date for Construction Permit No. CPCSF-3 from April 1, 1973 as set forth in your order of March 28, 1972 to April 1, 1974 or until the Operating License is issued. The requested extension is for the purpose of completing the pre-operational testing prior to issuance of the requested Operating License as Construction Permit No. CPCSF-3 must remain in effect until the Operating License is issued. We fully expect that the testing will be complete and the Operating License could be issued by June 1, 1973, however, the additional time is requested solely to provide an ample margin to avoid the burden on the Commission of having to again extend the construction completion date.

The plant structures and process equipment have been completed for some time. Additionally, the safety reviews, including the ACRS review, have been completed and the AEC Staff Safety Evaluation Report was issued in 1972. Further the environmental reviews have been completed and the Final Environmental Statement issued. Thus the only remaining items are satisfactory completion of the pre-operational testing to demonstrate that the plant will operate as described in our submittals to you. The remaining items are primarily operational in nature with at most only indirect impacts on safety and protection of personnel.

The program for demonstrating readiness for irradiated fuel processing has taken considerably longer than anticipated. This is primarily because of the sequential nature of the check-out and conditioning efforts wherein corrections found to be necessary in the course of equipment or subsystem testing must be made before proceeding to the next phase of program and all

811120744 730523
ADOCK 05000286

S. H. Smiley

-2-

February 27, 1973

process steps must be capable of normal operation before integrated system test runs can be successfully completed. As you are aware, our acceptance test procedures brought to light a substantial number of construction deficiencies, correction of which delayed initiation of equipment and process system functional testing. Acid runs were initiated in June, 1972 and cold uranium was introduced in September, 1972. Subsequent system throughput and operability testing identified additional facility adjustments required for operational readiness which could not have been detected in the earlier phases of the pre-operational test program. Two major shutdowns in test operations have been made to permit necessary modifications and adjustments required for integrated system testing. Such modifications are now essentially complete and final integrated system testing should be initiated shortly. The modifications and adjustments that have been made have been required to provide capability for operating the equipment and process systems according to design specifications and have not had direct safety significance. This is primarily a result of the increased quality assurance efforts on safety related items to assure that requisite safety objectives were met compared to the attention that was given to process or operability considerations.

Most of these problems now appear to be behind us and integrated system testing with unirradiated natural uranium is proceeding satisfactorily. We anticipate that this testing will be complete within the next 60 to 90 days and that the results will be adequate to permit issuing the operating license at that time. Therefore, the requested one year extension of the construction completion date to April 1, 1974 should be more than ample.

Alternatively, we believe that because the safety and environmental reviews have been completed and the notice of intent to license has been issued, the pre-operational verification testing is at a status that would permit the issuance of an operating license prior to expiration of the current construction completion date. Therefore we request that consideration be given to this alternative. The operating license would be appropriately conditioned to require Commission review and acceptance of the pre-operational test results prior to authorizing processing of the enriched and irradiated fuels. Such a condition would, we believe, provide the necessary control to the Commission to assure that all essential safety systems are operational and that the plant is operationally ready, prior to your authorization to proceed with the processing of enriched and irradiated fuels. If you believe that this alternative has merit, we would be pleased to cooperate with you in whatever manner is appropriate for its implementation.

This Amendment No. 33 is submitted as three (3) signed originals and seventy-five (75) copies. Concurrently with this filing a copy of this

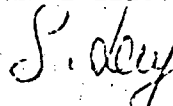
S. H. Smiley

-3-

February 27, 1973

Amendment No. 33 is being sent to Mr. Thomas H. Parks, County Clerk, Grundy County, Illinois (letter attached) to fulfill the requirements of U.S.A.E.C. regulations Title 10 CFR Part 2.101(b).

Respectfully submitted,
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY

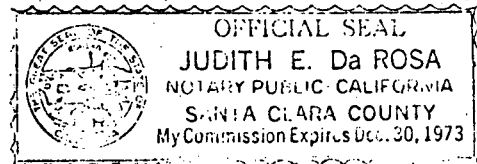


S. Levy, General Manager
Nuclear Fuel Department

/rj

This Amendment No. 33 subscribed and sworn before me this 28th day of February, 1973.

Judith E. Da Rosa
Notary Public in and for said County



175 Curtner Ave., Mail Code 822, San Jose, Calif. 95125

ATTESTATION

I, J. M. Clark, certify that I am an Attesting Secretary of the General Electric Company and that Salomon Levy, who signed this Amendment No. 33 to AEC Docket No. 50-268 on behalf of the General Electric Company, was then the General Manager of the Nuclear Fuel Department of said corporation and as such was duly authorized to sign this Amendment for and in behalf of said corporation by authority of its Board of Directors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my hand and the seal of said corporation the 28th day of February, 1973.

J M Clark
ATTESTING SECRETARY

GENERAL  ELECTRIC

NUCLEAR ENERGY
DIVISION

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, 175 CURTNER AVE., SAN JOSE, CALIF. 95125
Phone (408) 297-3000, TWX NO. 910-338-0116

NUCLEAR FUEL DEPARTMENT

February 27, 1973

Mr. Thomas H. Parks
County Clerk
Grundy County
Morris, Illinois 60450

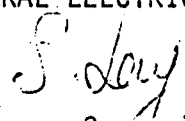
Subject: Amendment No. 33, Docket 50-268
Extension of Construction Completion Date
Midwest Fuel Recovery Plant

Dear Mr. Parks:

General Electric Company hereby furnishes you a copy of the subject Amendment No. 33 to Docket 50-268 that specifies extension of construction completion date for the Midwest Fuel Recovery Plant. This amendment is furnished to you pursuant to U. S. Atomic Energy Commission Regulation 10 CFR 2.101(b) which requires that a copy of such applications and amendments be furnished to the Chief Executive of the municipality or county in which the facility is located.

Your cooperation in bringing this to the attention of the Chief Executive of Grundy County will be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY


S. Levy, General Manager
Nuclear Fuel Department

/rj