

November 22, 2010

Dr. Said Abdel-Khalik, Chairman
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTRIC-HITACHI
NUCLEAR ENERGY APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF THE ECONOMIC
SIMPLIFIED BOILING-WATER REACTOR DESIGN

Dear Dr. Abdel-Khalik:

Thank you for your letter of October 20, 2010, in which the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) reported on the portions of the General Electric-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Economic Simplified Boiling-Water Reactor (ESBWR) design certification concerning safety to fulfill the requirements of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 52.53, "Referral to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS)."

In its letter, ACRS concluded that the ESBWR design is robust and that there is reasonable assurance that it can be built and operated without undue risk to public health and safety. ACRS agreed with the staff's resolution of all the open items for the ESBWR in regard to the specific safety issues. While the letter contains no recommendations, ACRS included two suggestions to the staff in the discussion section of the letter. The staff will be mindful of the ACRS suggestions in its future activities.

The staff appreciates the Committee's efforts and suggestions. We thank ACRS for its time and its valuable input, and we look forward to working with the Committee in the future.

Sincerely,

/RA by Martin J. Virgilio for/

R. W. Borchardt
Executive Director
for Operations

cc: Chairman Jaczko
Commissioner Svinicki
Commissioner Apostolakis
Commissioner Magwood
Commissioner Ostendorff
SECY

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OFFICIAL AGENCY RECORD

Letter to Dr. Said Abdel-Khalik from R. W. Borchardt dated: November 22, 2010

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