

November 15, 2011

Mr. Jerald G. Head
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs
GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy
3901 Castle Hayne Road MC A-18
Wilmington, NC 28401

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC SIMPLIFIED BOILING WATER REACTOR DESIGN CERTIFICATION
RULEMAKING SCHEDULE

Dear Mr. Head:

The staff completed its review and issued the Safety Evaluation Report for the Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) design on March 9, 2011. Also on that date, the staff issued the final design approval (FDA) for the ESBWR standard design. Issuance of the FDA signified completion of the NRC staff's technical review of General Electric (GE) Hitachi Nuclear Energy's ESBWR design. Subsequently, the Commission issued the proposed ESBWR design certification (DC) rule for public comment on March 24, 2011. The public comment period for the ESBWR DC rule ended on June 7, 2011. The staff is currently working on preparing the final ESBWR DC rule package for submission to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Based on our need to need to prioritize staff assignments among all of the ongoing DC and combined license reviews, we were unable to issue the final rule in September, 2011, as currently indicated on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's public website. We have reassessed the schedule for completing the ESBWR rule and now are estimating delivery of the rule to the Commission in January, 2012 and, provided the Commission affirms the final certification, publication in May, 2012.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David B. Matthews, Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-010

cc: See next page

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(Revised 08/25/2011)

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