UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

February 11, 1980

Generic Task No. A-10

Mr. Richard Gridley, Manager
Fuel & Services Licensing
General Electric Company
175 Curtner Avenue
San Jose, California 95125

Dear Mr. Gridley:

By letter dated November 27, 1979, you forwarded results of analyses of boil-off rates and Control Rod Drive (CRD) System Pump makeup capability for plants not previously addressed in earlier related submittals. The letter also included a draft procedure for optimizing CRD pump flow to the reactor vessel.

The November 27, 1979 letter was not included in the NRC's Unresolved Safety Issue A-10 review and the analyzed classes of plants will not be included in NUREG-0619, which resolves A-10 and is tentatively scheduled for issuance in "For Comment" form by February 29, 1980. However, we see no reason why licensees and applicants cannot use the results in the plant-specific analyses (and testing) required by NUREG-0619. Significantly more detail will be required in their submittals, however, particularly with regard to the assumptions utilized in derivation of the various flow rates.

We concur that the GE-proposed procedure for optimization of CRD system flow to the pressure vessel provides a necessary first step toward reaching the desired goal. However, in our opinion it is too cumbersome with regard to measurement of pump discharge flow. When faced with the need to maintain water level upon loss of other capable high pressure water injection systems, the operator simply cannot be burdened with the need to refer to pump curves or the need to consider what, if any, other portions of system flow are not included in a respanned flow meter.

We believe that operators should be provided one or two meters capable of reliable direct measurement of one and two pump flow.

Sincerely,

Darrell G. Eisenhut, Acting Director
Division of Operating Reactors
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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