

Response to Public Comments on Draft Regulatory Guide (DG)-1259, “Initial Test Program for Light-Water Cooled Reactors,” Proposed Revision 4 of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.68

A notice that Draft Regulatory Guide, DG-1259 (Proposed Revision 4 of RG 1.68) was available for public comment and was published in the *Federal Register* on December 7, 2012 on pages 73056-73057. The Public Comment period ended on January 31, 2013. Only one public comment was received from General Electric (GE) Hitachi Nuclear Energy as listed below.

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Commenter	Section of DG-1259	Specific Comments of Commenter	NRC Response to Comment
GEH-1	General comment	<p>General Comment:</p> <p>GEH is the applicant for the Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR) design certification and its renewal (10 CFR Part 52, Appendix A) and for the ESBWR design certification currently under review by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). GEH has reviewed the draft guidance in DG-1259, “Initial Test Programs for Water-Cooled Nuclear Power Plants.” This guide describes the general scope and depth that the staff of the NRC considers acceptable for Initial Test Programs for light-water-cooled nuclear power plants. GEH finds the guidance to be generally reflective of initial test programs that are described in the ABWR and ESBWR Design Control Documents for design certifications. In addition, GEH commends the NRC for recognition in its guidance of an approach for harmonization of international standards and guides.</p>	<p>The NRC acknowledges the positive GEH comment. New BWR COL applicants have the option to commit to RG 1.68, Revision 4 but this commitment is not required. If new COL applicants choose to commit to RG 1.68, Revision 4, they will meet NRC current regulations related to the Initial Test Program.</p>