



# HITACHI

## GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy

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Subject: **NRC Review of GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy – United States Advanced Boiling Water Reactor Design Certification Renewal Application (July 20, 2012)**

### References:

- 1) MFN 10-432, letter from R. E. Kingston, GEH to USNRC, Subject: ABWR Standard Plant Design Certification Renewal Application Design Control Document, Revision 5, Tier 1 and Tier 2 sent December 7, 2010.
- 2) Letter from USNRC to Jerald G. Head, GEH, Subject: GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy – United States Advanced Boiling-Water Reactor Design Certification Renewal Application received July 20, 2012.
- 3) MFN 12-110, Letter from Jerald G. Head, GEH, to USNRC Subject: Response to NRC Letter: GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy – United States Advanced Boiling-Water Reactor Design Certification Renewal Application (July 20, 2012) sent December 7, 2012.

In a letter dated December 7, 2010 (Reference 1), GEH submitted a Design Certification (DC) Renewal application for the U.S. Advanced Boiling-Water Reactor (ABWR) pursuant to the requirements of Subpart B, "Standard Design Certifications," of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants."

In Reference 2, the NRC issued its compilation of design changes that the agency considered to be regulatory improvements or changes that could meet the 10 CFR 52.59(b) criteria. In addition, the NRC requested that GEH implement the Fukushima Near-Term Task Force recommendations contained in SECY-12-0025, "Proposed Orders and Requests for Information in Response to Lessons Learned from Japan's March 11, 2011, Great Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami," dated February 17, 2012.

In Reference 3, GEH responded to the NRC's requests to identify the design changes that would be incorporated in the ABWR renewal application. GEH committed to address the 28 items identified in Reference 2 and to submit Revision 6 of the ABWR Design Control Document (DCD) no later than the second quarter of 2014.

The purpose of this letter is to advise the NRC that GEH intends to submit two revisions of the ABWR Design Control Document (DCD) that will address all the 28 items identified in Reference 2. There are two recent developments that have the potential for impacting the ABWR Certified design and GEH's ability to respond to backfit items 11, 14 through 17, 25 and 26 in Reference 2. These developments are as follows:

- 1) The Multinational Design Evaluation Program (MDEP) Policy Group has recently approved the formation of an ABWR working group. This group of international regulators is in the initial stages of reviewing the ABWR design. GEH would like to ensure due consideration of any issues identified by the MDEP Working Group prior to responding to backfit items 11, 14 through 17, 25 and 26 of Reference 2.
- 2) GEH is currently supporting Hitachi-GE with the ABWR licensing in the United Kingdom GDA process. GEH would like to ensure due consideration of any changes driven by the GDA process prior to responding to backfit items 11, 14 through 17, 25 and 26 in Reference 2.

GEH plans to submit a schedule for Revision 6 of the ABWR Design Certification Document no later than March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 addressing items other than 11, 14 through 17, 25 and 26 from the 28-item list in Reference 2. As the MDEP and GDA ABWR reviews progress and the design implications on items 11, 14 through 17, 25 and 26 become clearer to GEH, GEH will submit a schedule to the NRC for Revision 7 of the ABWR DCD addressing the remaining backfit items in Reference 2. The date of the submittal of Revision 7 will be determined based on the MDEP and GDA review schedule.

GEH will engage with the NRC in a timely fashion to discuss the submittal date for Revision 7 of the ABWR Design Control Document when completion of the GDA and MDEP process becomes clear.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Timothy L. Einfinger in cursive, followed by the word "For" in a smaller, simpler font.

Jerald G. Head  
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs

cc: David Sledzik, GEH  
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