



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 23, 2016

Mr. Bryan C. Hanson
President and Chief Nuclear Officer
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

SUBJECT: R.E. GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT – ACCEPTANCE OF REQUESTED
LICENSING ACTION RE: LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST TO CHANGE
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS TO ALLOW THE USE OF OPTIMIZED ZIRLO™
FUEL ROD CLADDING MATERIAL (CAC NOS. MF8299 AND MF8300)

Dear Mr. Hanson:

By application dated August 22, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML16236A300), Exelon Generation Company, LLC submitted a license amendment request for R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant (Ginna). The proposed amendment would revise the technical specifications (TSs) of Renewed Facility Operating License No. DPR-18 for Ginna by modifying TS 4.2.1, "Reactor Core, Fuel Assemblies," to add Optimized ZIRLO™ as an approved fuel rod cladding material.

The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this amendment request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Consistent with Section 50.90 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), an amendment to the license (including the TSs) must fully describe the changes requested, and following as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. Section 50.34 of 10 CFR addresses the content of technical information required. This section stipulates that the submittal address the design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations.

The NRC staff has performed an acceptance review of your application and concluded that it provides technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed amendment in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite the completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

B. Hanson

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The NRC staff expects to issue a request for additional information, if necessary, no later than November 30, 2016. The NRC staff expects to complete its review by your requested date of August 22, 2017, with an estimate of man-hours of approximately 200 hours.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-2020 or by e-mail at Brenda.Mozafari@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brenda Mozafari". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brenda Mozafari, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch I-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-244

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B. Hanson

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The NRC staff expects to issue a request for additional information, if necessary, no later than November 30, 2016. The NRC staff expects to complete its review by your requested date of August 22, 2017, with an estimate of man-hours of approximately 200 hours.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-2020 or by e-mail at Brenda.Mozafari@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Brenda Mozafari, Senior Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch I-1
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-244

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DATE	9/20/2016	9/21/2016	9/23/2016	9/23/2016

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