

August 3, 2017

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

SUBJECT: GE HITACHI NUCLEAR ENERGY – UNITED STATES ADVANCED
BOILING-WATER REACTOR DESIGN CERTIFICATION RENEWAL REVIEW
SCHEDULE

Dear Mr. Head:

In a letter dated December 7, 2010, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML110040176) GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy (GEH) submitted a Design Certification 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* Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications, and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants." On February 19, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16081A268), you submitted a revision to the application to incorporate proposed design changes identified following responses to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's requests for additional information (RAIs) and public meetings with the staff.

The NRC staff issued a review schedule on August 30, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML103140050) which was based on resolving all open items (OIs) by January, 2017. However, some OIs associated with the review of your application remain unresolved. For example, GEH's letters dated October 12, 2016 (ADAMS Accession No. ML16291A490) and March 20, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17079A357) provided information associated with an overall increase of 200 °F to the licensing basis peak cladding temperature (PCT) due to changes or errors in previous models that were identified for operating boiling-water reactors. However, GEH did not update the loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA) PCT results in ABWR Design Control Document Table 6.3-4, "Summary of Results of LOCA Analysis," and proposes that changes or errors in the previous models would be incorporated by combined license (COL) applicants referencing the ABWR design. GEH's proposed approach to defer this type of review to the COL application has not been used by previous applicants and may require further interactions with GEH as well as issuance of RAIs for the NRC staff to determine if such an approach is acceptable. Another example of an OI that remains unresolved, is associated with the emergency core cooling system suction strainer design. This review has resulted in several RAIs and follow-up RAIs. The latest RAI on this item was issued on July 10, 2017 (ADAMS Accession No. ML17187A127), with an expected response within 45 days from the date of the RAI letter, as requested by GEH.

For the reasons stated above, the NRC will not be able to meet the schedule outlined in the above referenced schedule letter. The NRC staff will issue a revised schedule after additional interactions are held with GEH on these, and other issues and receipt of complete responses to the NRC's RAIs.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, please contact the lead project manager, Adrian Muñiz at 301-415-4093 or via e-mail address at Adrian.Muniz@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Francis M. Akstulewicz, Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No.: 52-045

SUBJECT: GE HITACHI NUCLEAR ENERGY – UNITED STATES ADVANCED BOILING
WATER REACTOR DESIGN CERTIFICATION RENEWAL REVIEW SCHEDULE
DATED AUGUST 3, 2017

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ADAMS Accession No: ML17199G648**NRO-002**

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