



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

October 22, 1979

Andrew C. Goodhope, Esq., Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
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In the Matter of General Electric Company
(GE Morris Operation Spent Fuel Storage Facility)
Docket No. 70-1308

Dear Members of the Board:

In a letter to the Board dated September 20, 1979, the Staff advised the Board of its plans to meet with the parties in this proceeding on October 18 and 19, 1979, in a further effort to negotiate a stipulation of the contentions proposed by the Intervenor, the State of Illinois and Bridget Rorem, et al. In its letter, the Staff also proposed a schedule for filing statements of position on any contentions on which agreement has not been reached and for a prehearing conference. Notwithstanding the fact that the Staff confirmed the meeting dates with the Intervenor before finalizing the proposed schedule, the Staff was advised subsequently by the Intervenor that they could not meet as planned. Therefore, the meetings were cancelled. In view of the apparent inability of the Intervenor to meet with the other parties, the Staff no longer believes that the parties will be able to negotiate a stipulation on contentions prior to a prehearing conference. Accordingly, the Staff believes it is appropriate that the Board schedule a prehearing conference to consider all intervention petitions and to discuss the specific contentions to be admitted as issues in controversy in this proceeding. To assist the Board at the prehearing conference, the Staff intends to file, by November 20, 1979, a statement of position on the contentions currently proposed by the Intervenor. The Staff understands that the Applicant also plans to file such a statement by that date.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ulman Rothschild
Marjorie Ulman Rothschild
Counsel for NRC Staff

cc: Service List

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