

PDR



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

JUN 05 1979

DOCKET NO.: 70-1113
LICENSEE: General Electric Company (GE)
FACILITY: Wilmington Fuel Fabrication Facility
Wilmington, North Carolina
SUBJECT: REVIEW OF LICENSE AMENDMENT APPLICATION
DATED JULY 14, 1978, AND SUPPLEMENT TRANSMITTED
BY LETTER DATED MAY 14, 1979 CONCERNING
DECOMMISSIONING PLAN, PC NO. 78109A

Introduction

By letter dated July 14, 1978, General Electric Company (GE) submitted a plan for the future decontamination of the places of use and site authorized by Special Nuclear Material License No. SNM-1097 so that they can be released for unrestricted use. In the letter to GE dated October 13, 1978, following review of the plan, the NRC noted that additional details of the plan should be provided by GE after completion of the ongoing study of fuel fabrication plant decommissioning, about the end of 1979. GE was also requested to provide a statement from a corporate officer committing GE to provision of the necessary funds. The commitment was made in GE's letter of May 14, 1979.

Decontamination Plan and Costs

The decontamination plan concerns the areas within and outside of the buildings at the Wilmington site where unencapsulated radioactive materials have been handled pursuant to License SNM-1097. It was assumed in estimating the costs of decommissioning that the facilities and all of the equipment decontaminated for release for unrestricted use would meet present radiological limits but that the NRC would have established a de minimus quantity for materials. Equipment and parts of facilities not meeting the criteria for unrestricted use would be packaged, transported and disposed of in accordance with current criteria and requirements for radioactive materials. Experience in decontaminating a smaller low-enriched uranium fuel fabrication plant in 1969 at San Jose, California, was used by GE in estimating the cost for decontaminating the Wilmington site. The total estimated cost for the Wilmington site was estimated to be approximately \$11,500,000. The staff concluded that the estimated cost is reasonable but that additional details to support the plan should be provided as supplemental information following completion of the decommissioning study in which GE is now participating.

656308

7908150 180 C

Financial Plan

The staff has evaluated the GE financial commitment and finds that, although it does not contain a financial surety arrangement that would guarantee decommissioning funds, it offers the assurance of an officer of GE that GE will provide the necessary funds for decommissioning. The GE commitment is a very small fraction of the worth of the company.

Conclusion

GE's plan for the future decontamination of the places of use and site authorized by license SNM-1097, so that they may be released for unrestricted use, and the financial arrangements to ensure that adequate funds will be available to cover the costs at the time of decommissioning, provide assurance that the health and safety of the operating personnel and the public will be protected, and the quality of the environment maintained.

It is recommended that an amendment to Special Nuclear Material License SNM-1097 be issued to incorporate the decommissioning plan and financial commitment. The amendment should include a request that GE provide additional details to support the estimated cost of decommissioning, based on the outcome of the study, now in progress, of the decommissioning of plants for the fabrication of light water reactor fuel. The additional information should be provided to NRC by July 1, 1980.

Robert L. Stevenson

Robert L. Stevenson
Uranium Fuel Fabrication Section
Fuel Processing & Fabrication Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle and
Material Safety

Approved by:

W. T. Crow

W. T. Crow, Section Leader