

GENERAL ELECTRIC

NUCLEAR POWER
SYSTEMS DIVISION

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, 175 CURTNER AVE., SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95125

MFN-084-80

April 21, 1980

Honorable John F. Ahearne
Chairman
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Dr. Ahearne:

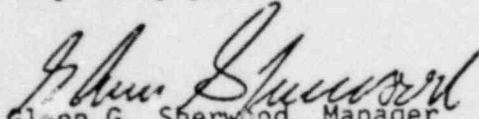
SUBJECT: THE BWR PERSPECTIVE ON INTERIM HYDROGEN CONTROL MEASURES

General Electric personnel participated in the meeting held March 19, 1980 involving the Commissioners and representatives of the NRC staff on the subject of proposed interim hydrogen control requirements. At that meeting, General Electric committed to providing additional information on the accident prevention capability for the BWR, as well as comments on the NRC staff paper 80-107, "Proposed Interim Hydrogen Control Requirements for Small Containments." Attached please find the GE memorandum, "The BWR Perspective on Interim Hydrogen Control Measures" for your information.

General Electric believes that substantial hydrogen generation is effectively prevented in a BWR due to its unique inherent design features. Accordingly, inerting BWR Mark I and II containments is unnecessary and is not recommended due to its risks to plant personnel and reduction in operational safety. It is GE's recommendation that detailed evaluations to address the overall issue of hydrogen control requirements can be established through the rulemaking procedures on design features for core-damage and core-melt accidents recommended by the TMI-2 Lessons Learned Task Force.

If there are any questions on the attached information, we would be pleased to provide further details at your convenience.

Very truly yours,


Glenn G. Sherwood, Manager
Safety and Licensing Operation

GGs:mm/1762

cc: Commissioner Bradford
Commissioner Gilinsky
Commissioner Hendrie
Commissioner Kennedy

W. R. Butler
M. W. Carbon
R. P. Denise
H. R. Denton

R. J. Mattson

8007110 498

Enclosure 4