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GENERAL ELECTRIC

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NUCLEAR ENERGY
PROGRAMS DIVISION

February 11, 1981
BDW 81010

XSNM00271

Mr. James R. Shea, Director
Office of International Programs
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Subject: Request for Expedited Action - XSNM 271

Dear Mr. Shea,

General Electric hereby advises the Commission that the issuance of an amendment to XSNM 271 is becoming a matter of urgency. We filed a request on October 15, 1979 for a modest increase in the quantity of low enriched uranium authorized under XSNM 271 for export to refuel the Nuclenor power station in Spain.

That request, treated as an "application" as set forth in Section 128 of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Act, has been set aside until Spain meets U.S. requirements on another plant. Spain has been actively seeking some means to meet these requirements to permit export of this and other U.S. origin materials. Against the possibility that this obstacle may not be removed by action of the International Atomic Energy Board of Governors later this month, we urge the matter be prepared for authorization by Executive order.

Here are the facts on Nuclenor's refueling condition:

1. Only 18 new fuel bundles are now at the site.
2. In an August 1981 refueling outage, 16 of the 18 bundle inventory will be loaded.
3. An unforeseeable drought which caused a hydro-electric generating shortfall in Spain is demanding more Nuclenor generation than anticipated.



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4. If the XDNM 271 amendment were issued in April 1981, Nuclenor would not face operation after August with only two spare fuel bundles. (Three to four months are needed after U.S. licensing to obtain Spanish permits, transport authorizations and for carrier arrangements)

Please let me know if we can do anything to help avoid continuing this Nuclenor fuel shortage.

Very truly yours,



B.D. Wilson, Manager
Government Relations and
Export Licensing

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