



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

April 8, 1993

Project No. 669

Mr. E. E. Kintner
Chairman, Utility Steering Committee
Bradley Hill Road
Post Office Box 682
Norwich, Vermont 05055

Dear Mr. Kintner:

SUBJECT: PREPARATION OF THE FINAL SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT (FSER) REGARDING
THE UTILITY REQUIREMENTS DOCUMENT (URD) FOR PASSIVE PLANT DESIGNS

I am pleased to note that significant progress has been made toward resolving the policy and technical issues identified in the draft safety evaluation report (DSER) for passive plant designs issued in April 1992, and in the draft Commission paper transmitted to you by letter dated July 2, 1992. A consolidated policy paper, which included many of these issues, was sent to the Commission as SECY-93-087, "Policy, Technical, and Licensing Issues Pertaining to Evolutionary and Advanced Light-Water Reactor (ALWR) Designs," on April 2, 1993, (copy enclosed). A separate Commission paper addressing a number of issues related to the regulatory treatment of non-safety issues is nearing completion and another addressing issues related to source term is in preparation. Resolution of these issues will be documented in the FSER for the URD for passive designs.

The staff is nearing completion of its review of your responses to the passive DSER, however, we are aware that you are contemplating submitting additional information to support resolution of some remaining technical issues, as well as an optimization issue concerning emergency planning. In order for the staff to finalize the FSER technical evaluations, it is imperative that the staff receive all relevant information and positions by May 3, 1993. The staff cannot assure that correspondence received after that date can be evaluated and incorporated in the passive FSER which SECY-91-161, "Schedules for the Advanced Reactor Reviews and Regulatory Guidance Revisions," scheduled for release to the Commission in June 1993. The May 3 deadline is not intended to preclude future technical and policy discussions between the staff and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI).

I also request that changes to the URD for passive plants be limited to resolving issues identified in the passive DSER. Changes to areas where there is already agreement between EPRI and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff

Project 669

X K2 (EPRI)

DF03

1/0

Mr. E. E. Kintner

- 2 -

April 8, 1993

may make a previously-acceptable position deficient in certain areas. This may introduce potential schedular difficulties without a related benefit. Focusing appropriate staff resources on resolving open issues, not creating new areas of concern, is the only way to ensure that the FSER will be issued in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Dennis M. Crutchfield, Associate Director
for Advanced Reactors and License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

Central File
PDR

BGrimes, 11E2
w/o enclosure:
TMurley, 12G18

DCrutchfield

RBorchardt

JHWilson

PShea

GGrant, 17G21

PDST R/F
WRussell, 12G18

WTravers
TEssig
NMarkisohn
JMoore, 15B18
ACRS (11)

OFC:	LA:PDST	PM:PDST <i>JS</i>	PM:PDST	(A)SC:PDST	(A):PDST	ADAR <i>AL</i>
NAME:	PShea <i>PS</i>	JHWilson:sg	NMarkisohn	TEssig <i>WE</i>	RBorchardt	DCrutchfield
DATE:	04/8/93	04/8/93	04/ /93	04/8/93	04/8/93	04/8/93

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY:

DOCUMENT NAME: DROPDEAD.SER

Mr. E. E. Kintner, Chairman
ALWR Utility Steering Committee

Project No. 669
EPRI

cc: Mr. John Trotter
Nuclear Power Division
Electric Power Research Institute
Post Office Box 10412
Palo Alto, California 94303

Mr. Brian A. McIntyre, Manager
Advanced Plant Safety & Licensing
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Energy Systems Business Unit
Post Office Box 355
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230

Mr. Joseph Quirk
GE Nuclear Energy
Mail Code 782
General Electric Company
175 Curtner Avenue
San Jose, California 95125

Mr. Stan Ritterbusch
Combustion Engineering
1000 Prospect Hill Road
Post Office Box 500
Windsor, Connecticut 06095