Original concurrence to be returned Distribution: to FBrown SS 396

Docket 70-754, 50-73 NMSS R/F FBrown

FCAF R/F

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JAN 0 0 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Cecil O. Thomas, Chief

Standardization & Special Projects Branch

Division of Licensing, NRR

FROM:

Leland C. Rouse, Chief

Advanced Fuel and Spent Fuel Licensing Branch Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety, NMSS

SUBLECT:

GENERAL ELECTRIC-VALLECITOS NUCLEAR CENTER (GE-VNC)

REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE CRITICALITY ALARM REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR 70.24(a) IN "SUBCRITICAL AREAS."

DATED SEPTEMBER 20, 1982, DOCKET NO. 50-73

As per your request of December 17, 1982, we have reviewed the criticality alarm requirements exempt on segment of GE's amendment request dated September 10, 1982. This amendment application is for the Nuclear Test Reactor (NTR)-License R-33.

As noted in the GE application, we have exempted GE from the criticality alarm requirements of 10 CFR 70.24(a) in "subcritical areas" as defined in Special Nuclear Materials License SNM-960 (Amendment No. 21 dated October 28, 1981). The new paragraph 2.c.(3) that GE proposes to add to Libense R-33 is equivalent to the restrictions and controls that were incorporated into License SNM-960 when we exempted GE from the 10 CFR 70.24(a) requirements. We feel that the related restrictions in License SNM-960 presents an acceptable and safe situation. Because GE's proposed new paragraph contains the same requirements under the same circumstances, we feel that the requested exemption as proposed for License R-33 is justified and appropriate.

Original signed by .

Leland C. Rouse, Chief Advanced Fuel and Spent Fuel Licensing Branch Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety, NMSS

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NRC FORM 318 (10-80) NRCM 0240