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

April 22, 1994

Docket No. 52-001

APPLICANT: GE Nuclear Energy (GE)

FACILITY: Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING TO DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF THE FINAL DESIGN APPROVAL (FDA) FOR THE ADVANCED BOILING WATER REACTOR (ABWR)

A public meeting was held between GE Nuclear Energy (GE) and the Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) staff on April 20, 1994, to discuss several issues related to the design certification of the ABWR. Enclosure 1 is the list of those who attended the meeting and Enclosure 2 is the agenda that was followed.

The discussion of the FDA centered on a desire by GE to learn what the FDA will include and to insure that the preparation of the document will not become a critical path item in the completion of the approval process. The staff indicated that the current priority is for the staff to complete its effort in the production of the final safety evaluation chapters incorporating the comments already received from the technical editors and the Office of General Council (OGC) staff. OGC staff is currently preparing a draft of the FDA and the staff indicated that it did not expect any significant problems in the wording or reaching agreement on its total contents. It was agreed that the staff would support early discussions with GE if they become necessary. GE inquired about the estimated date of FDA issuance and the staff indicated that it was working to completion of the final safety evaluation report (FSER) by the end of May with the FDA to follow shortly after. It was also indicated that the NUREG version of the FSER and the FDA would be issued only after all significant staff feedback items related to Amendment 34 were adequately addressed by GE.

The design control document (DCD) discussion dealt with GE's need for more official guidance from the staff on what is to be included in the document. The staff indicated that it would be issuing a guidance memorandum to the applicants in early May. GE indicated that it did not see sufficient time to complete its DCD using the guidance before the expected date of the FDA. The staff indicated that it would be acceptable for GE to submit its DCD after FDA in accordance with recent Commission guidance. Further the staff would then appropriately mention in the FDA transmittal letter that GE had not submitted its DCD and if significant problems were identified in the review of that document, then the FDA would then have to be revisited or revised accordingly. The staff emphasized that GE's DCD development should keep changes and reformatting to a minimum and GE concurred with that philosophy.

Regarding the contents, the staff emphasized that it believed that the COL action items should be included in the DCD. In addition the staff indicated that it is developing a Commission paper which recommends that the combined license (COL) applicant/holder maintain a so-called living probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) throughout the life of the plant. The staff would have this

PRA requirement be included in the standard safety analysis report (SSAR) and DCD as a COL action item. GE indicated that it disagrees with the need for both items. Specifically GE suggested that it conduct a detailed review of the 300+ action items and determine the subset which are true requirements on the COL and the subset which includes administrative and procedural type actions. Further, GE would then reclassify the latter subset as COL "guidance" items but the total set of COL items would still remain unchanged in content in the SSAR and the DCD. GE indicated that it was working on a "white paper" to address its position which would be provided to the staff within one week through Nuclear Energy Institute.

The staff indicated that for the National Environmental Policy Act severe accident mitigation design alternative review, GE had provided all the required information and that the staff would be completing its environmental assessment (EA) in the next few weeks. This EA needs to be issued formally at the time that the proposed certification draft rulemaking is issued. The staff indicated that it could be issued possibly before that date.

The discussion of the design certification rulemaking (DCR) dealt with the fact that the proposed rule is being worked on by OGC and the Office of Nuclear Research staff and that GE would like to start early discussion on the form and content of it. The staff indicated that the staff is still evaluating the comments provided by GE after the proposed notice of rulemaking was issued. GE indicated that it has some specific concerns about the inclusion of applicable regulation in the DCR, the finality aspects, change provisions, and Tier 2 Star, and indicated that they would be providing additional formal comments on these items within the next couple of weeks. The staff stated that where would be sufficient time after FDA issuance (about 3 months) to address industry and applicant concerns without affecting the schedule of design certification.

Original Signed By:

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Enclosures:
As stated

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GENERAL ELECTRIC ABWR
FINAL DESIGN APPROVAL
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APRIL 20, 1994

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Joe Egan	ABB-CE
Art Howell	EDO
Norman Fletcher	DOE/ALWR
Jerry Wilson	NRR/PDST
Ray Ng	NEI

Enclosure 1

GE/STAFF ABWR MEETING

April 20, 1994

AGENDA

- FDA FORM & CONTENT
- NRC STAFF DCD GUIDANCE
  - COL ACTION ITEMS
- STATUS OF NEPA EVALUATION
- INTERACTION ON PROPOSED DCR

Enclosure 2