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December 15, 1982

50-447

Mr. Cecil Thomas, Chief
Special Projects Branch
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
7920 Norfolk Avenue
Bethesda MD 20814

Dear Mr. Thomas,

On December 14, 1982, representatives of NRC and the General Electric Company met in Bethesda to discuss the status of the GESSAR-II Nuclear Island Final Design Approval (FDA) review (Docket 50-447). It is the purpose of this letter to summarize those discussions.

GE currently has under review with the staff the FDA application for its BWR/6-Mark III standard plant design. The application is being reviewed in two parts, i.e., the Nuclear Island Design (for which the current schedule calls for FDA issuance in May 1983) and the "severe accident design" (for which the current schedule calls for FDA issuance in May 1984). These parallel review efforts will hereafter be referred to as the 1983 FDA and the 1984 FDA, respectively.

1983 FDA

1. GE stated its intention to obtain an FDA-2 in accordance with the NRC's Policy Statement on Standardization of Nuclear Power Plants (August 31, 1978), which provides for a five-year license (from date of issuance of the FDA) and requires the applicant to comply with regulatory guidance in effect at the date of docketing. The docketing date for GESSAR-II was February 22, 1982.

2. GE has responded to approximately 95% of the questions asked by the NRC staff and to date four potential open items have been identified. These items are:

   (a) Seismic design envelope approach and the methodology used in analyzing soils-structure interaction.

   (b) Safety-grade classification of the remote shutdown panel.

   (c) Updating of the GE quality assurance program.

   (d) Definition of interface requirements for utility applicants.

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It is GE's belief that these issues can be resolved prior to issuance of the Safety Evaluation Report through further discussion with staff management.

3. After some discussion of these issues, GE and NRC agreed that the 1983 FDA review is essentially on schedule and is receiving the appropriate priority by the staff.

4. It was also agreed that the results of the discussions at this meeting could be used by NRC staff management in their response to the "ground rules" letter submitted by GE in October 1982.

1984 FDA

1. It was estimated by GE that the 1984 FDA technical review is about 50% complete and is on schedule. GE stated its position that the 1984 FDA could be issued earlier than May 1984.

2. GE stated its intention to seek certification of the design through the rulemaking process following receipt of the 1984 FDA.

3. GE also stated its intention to comply with the approach and requirements outlined in the SECY-82-1 series of Commission papers dealing with severe accident rulemaking. It was noted, however, that this approach is still under review by both the ACRS and the Commission, which injects some uncertainty regarding final commitments.

4. NRC emphasized that issuance of the 1984 FDA would require GE's compliance with the 1981 version of the Standard Review Plan (NUREG-0800), including an assessment of the GESSAR-II Nuclear Island design against the acceptance criteria of the SRP.

5. NRC also stated that it is their perception that compliance with the SECY-82-1 approach and NUREG-0800 could very well mean that designs which are acceptable for the 1983 and 1984 FDAs could be different. They strongly encouraged GE to make submittals to cover these areas (as well as other desirable improvements) as soon as possible.

We look forward to further discussion of these matters during the meeting with GE and NRC management which has been scheduled in Bethesda on January 5, 1983.

Sincerely,

Laurence S. Gifford

Laurence S. Gifford
Washington Liaison Office Manager

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