



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

June 9, 1994

7-24-94
RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC
7/28/94
date initials

COMSECY-94-025

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Chairman
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Remick
Commissioner de Planque

FROM: James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: FINAL SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT (FSER) FOR THE ADVANCED
BOILING WATER REACTOR (ABWR) DESIGN

The purpose of this memorandum is to request Commission approval to publish the enclosed FSER for the GE Nuclear Energy (GE) ABWR design, as indicated in my memorandum dated March 4, 1994. In a memorandum dated December 23, 1993, the Commission was provided with the advance version of the FSER and, in a memorandum dated May 13, 1994, the resolution of the 14 open items that were identified in the advance version of the FSER were forwarded to you. The letter from the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards on the ABWR review is provided in Chapter 21 of the FSER.

In a memorandum dated May 31, 1994, on implementation of design certification issues, it was noted that approval of the FSER also constituted Commission approval of a wide range of technical and policy issues related to the implementation of 10 CFR Part 52, and which were previously provided to the Commission. The staff's safety findings in FSER were based, in part, on the assumption that the Commission agrees with the staff's positions on these issues. If the Commission disagrees with any of the staff's positions or provides alternative guidance on these issues, it is likely that certain review areas and safety conclusions will need to be reassessed by both the staff and the applicant for design certification.

The staff has also prepared the enclosed final design approval (FDA) for the ABWR design. This draft FDA is similar in form and content to other FDAs issued in the past, pursuant to Appendix O of 10 CFR Part 50, including a duration period of 5 years. The staff believes that the FDA should be consistent with past practice and the Commission's policy statement on standardization of nuclear power plants dated August 31, 1978. The draft letter to GE signifies that the technical review stage of design certification is complete, pursuant to Subpart B of 10 CFR Part 52. The staff plans to issue the enclosed FDA after the Commission approves the FSER for publication.

Contact:
Thomas H. Boyce, NRR
504-1130

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I approve publication of the FSER and the FDA for the Advanced Boiling Water Reactor after resolution of any actions required by Commission decisions on COMSECY-94-024 and SECY-94-084.

I disapprove limiting the FDA to a five year term, & support Commissioner Remick's proposal for FDA duration.

C. Paul de Planque
June 30, 1994

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