



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

March 2, 1992

Docket No. 50-605

Mr. Patrick W. Marriott, Manager  
Licensing & Consulting Services  
GE Nuclear Energy  
General Electric Company  
175 Curtner Avenue  
San Jose, California 95125

Dear Mr. Marriott:

SUBJECT: ADVANCED BOILING WATER REACTOR (ABWR) PROBABILISTIC RISK  
ASSESSMENT (PRA) REVIEW STATUS

On October 4, 1991, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff issued SECY-91-1309, "Draft Safety Evaluation Report on the General Electric (GE) Advanced Boiling Water Reactor Design Covering Chapter 19 of the Standard Safety Analysis Report, Response to Severe Accident Policy Statement." This draft safety evaluation report (DSER) included open items related to the staff's assessment of the ABWR PRA. Since the DSER was issued, we have met frequently with GE representatives to acquire a resolution path for priority PRA open items, such as uncertainty analyses, suppression pool bypass leakage, and shutdown risk. As a result of the considerable attention given to these areas by the staff and GE, acceptable methods for resolving the issues have been developed. Although substantive discussion has occurred on other areas of concern, agreement on how to resolve a number of DSER open items has not been formally documented. The remaining items have not been addressed, and there is no clear path to resolution.

To focus the dialogue between the staff and GE on PRA issues and to facilitate issue resolution, we propose the following near term actions:

1. By March 11, 1992, GE should submit the following information to the staff on each PRA open item. In addition to the DSER open, confirmatory, interface, and staff correction items, GE's submittal should address the following areas: Accident Management; Use of PRA to determine equipment in the Reliability Assurance Program; Use of PRA to determine "hard" board in the ABWR control room; Severe Accident Closure; and PRA input to Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria:
  - a. The current status of each item (i.e., unresolved or general agreement reached on method for resolution).
  - b. An outline of what has been done and/or what remains to be done to achieve resolution. (In case resolution is believed to have been reached, GE should provide details and docketed submittals supporting this resolution.)

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- c. Proposed date for providing required information to the staff.
2. Based upon the information that GE provides on March 11, 1992, the NRC staff will hold a meeting with GE representatives at San Jose, California, during the week of March 23, 1992, to review the status of the open items. The purpose of the meeting would be to confirm the status and provide a focus to resolve each item. For unresolved issues, the staff and GE will work to achieve acceptable resolution and discuss significant issues at the March 25 and 26, 1992, management meeting in San Jose, California.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Richard W. Borchardt

Robert C. Pierson, Director  
Standardization Project Directorate  
Division of Advanced Reactors  
and Special Projects  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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Mr. Patrick W. Marriott  
General Electric Company

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