52-004

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 3, 1995

Mr. James E. Quinn, Projects Manager
LMR and SBWR Programs
GE Nuclear Energy
175 Curtner Avenue, M/C 165
San Jose, California 95125

SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORT ON STAFF'S REVIEW OF GE LICENSING TOPICAL REPORT NEDE-32176P, REVISION 0, "TRACG MODEL DESCRIPTION" (TAC NO. M85913)

Dear Mr. Quinn:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is continuing its review activities associated with the testing and analysis program related to design certification of the Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (SBWR). In response to your letter dated May 11, 1995 and, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards for detailed documentation of staff reviews, the staff of the Reactor Systems Branch, with the assistance of its contractor, Brookhaven National Laboratory, has prepared the enclosed progress report on its evaluation of Licensing Topical Report (LTR) NEDE-32176-P, "TRACG Model Description". It is expected that the Containment Systems and Severe Accident Branch will prepare a separate evaluation on TRACG containment models after GE submits those to NRC.

The purpose of this progress report is to provide documentation of the staff's review to date and to provide GE with a single document identifying the remaining staff concerns. The staff has reviewed the Model LTR and GE's responses to the staff's request for additional information and concludes that while some portions of the topical report are satisfactory, on the whole, the LTR is incomplete. The progress report identifies the portions of the LTR that are judged to be satisfactory at this time and require no further changes. The progress report also identifies deficiencies, listing them as "open issues", and discussing them in the evaluation section. These open issues should be addressed in Revision 1 of the LTR, which is expected before the end of the year.

You have requested that the information in LTR NEDE-32176P, Revision 0 be withheld from public disclosure and treated as proprietary under the provisions of 10 CFR 2.790. The staff concludes that this progress report does not contain information that you have requested be treated as proprietary. However, the staff will withhold this letter from public disclosure for 30 calendar days from the date of this letter to allow GE the opportunity to verify the staff's conclusion in this regard. If, after that time, you do not request that all or portions of the information in the enclosure be withheld in accordance with 10 CFR 2.790, this letter will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room.

The staff review of the TRACG code for use in the SBWR licensing is still in process. Additional questions may be forwarded to you in the future.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, contact me at (301) 415-1108 or Son Ninh at (301) 415-1125.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

James H. Wilson, Senior Project Manager
Standardization Project Directorate
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 52-004

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
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GE Nuclear Energy

Docket No. 52-004

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