



General Electric Company  
175 Curtin Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125

June 5, 1992

MFN No. 126-92  
Docket No. STN 52-001  
SLK-9276

Document Control Desk  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Robert C. Pierson, Director  
Standardization and Non-Power Reactor Project Directorate

Subject: Tornado Design Features and Submittal Date for Changes

This responds to your letter of May 29, 1992 in which you expressed concern regarding the impact of the ABWR review by the five (5) day delay in our providing information regarding the design basis tornado. Further, you requested a firm date for GE to make a submittal detailing the design changes necessary to accommodate the revised staff position having to do with design basis tornado.

Regarding this matter GE requested guidance from the staff on the appropriate missile spectrum to be used in the ABWR design on February 27, 1992. Since the tornado missile spectrum governs the wall/roof thickness for design, this guidance is critical to the evaluation of the ABWR design. The staff was unable to provide this guidance until the issue resolution meeting between GE and the staff on May 5-6, 1992, some seventy-five (75) days later. In light of these factors, I do not believe it justified to imply an adverse schedule impact attributable to GE's response time.

As you noted in your letter, GE indicated that, based on the pending design impact for the reactor building superstructure and the roof purlins, several sections of the SSAR Chapter 3 and its appendices may need to be revised. You requested that GE provide a firm submittal date for the necessary changes within five (5) days. Due to the significant impact on the

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ABWR design of the newly established tornado acceptance criteria, we hesitate to provide a hurried estimate of the impact of such an extensive and far-reaching design change. We suggest that this matter be thoroughly discussed at the immediately approaching staff/GE management meeting on June 8, 1992. We are prepared to fully enumerate the elements of this change at this time.

Sincerely,



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