



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

May 15, 1992

Central File

Docket No. 52-001

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: SUMMARY OF GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY (GE) ADVANCED BOILING WATER REACTOR (ABWR) DESIGN PROCESS ASSESSMENT

During March 30 through April 3, 1992, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Special Inspection Branch Staff and NRC consultants (the NRC team) visited the GE office in San Jose, California, to assess the feasibility of performing a design inspection.

Enclosed, for your information, is a copy of the memorandum and its enclosures from Mr. Eugene V. Imbro, Chief, Special Inspection Branch, to me dated May 6, 1992, on the subject of GE ABWR design process assessment. The enclosed memorandum is not a formal inspection or audit report, but a description of the NRC team's observations based on the cursory review of the GE document samples for the selected systems and discussions with GE staff.

As discussed in the May 7, 1992, management meeting between GE and NRC, the NRC does not plan to conduct any design inspections for the ABWR at this point in time. In lieu of inspections, the NRC needs to better understand GE's overall design process which it will use to complete and control the U.S. ABWR final design. Therefore, we request that GE provide a submittal to the staff within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Specifically, the submittal should discuss the following information:

- GE's design process for the U.S. ABWR standard plant
- Pre-certification and post-certification design control procedures
- The role of the COL applicant
- The control of design documentation in support of the certified design
- GE's agreement with the Japanese for design information exchange and availability and its duration

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Mr. Patrick W. Marriott

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May 15, 1992

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Son Ninh at (301-504-1125).

Sincerely,

Original signed by Robert C. Pierson

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

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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Mr. Patrick W. Marriott

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cc: Mr. Robert Mitchell
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