



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

April 12, 1996

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

SUBJECT: STATUS OF THE SIMPLIFIED BOILING WATER REACTOR (SBWR) TEST PROGRAMS  
AND TRACG REVIEW

Dear Mr. Quinn:

In your letter dated March 4, 1996, you indicated that GE was redirecting the focus of its SBWR programs from plants of the 670 MWe to plants of 1,000 MWe or larger. In line with redirecting the SBWR focus, you provided the staff with the proposed schedule for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to review the TAPD Revision C, Scaling Report Revision 1, test reports, test analyses, and to issue the PANDA QA audit report. Specifically, you asked the staff to proceed with the orderly closure of these activities. Following the receipt of your March 4 letter, the staff met with you and conducted a number of conference calls with the intention of understanding GE's closure objectives and the products GE wished to receive from the staff closure activities.

In your letter dated March 13, 1996, you indicated that GE was substantially reducing the level of activity on the TRACG effort as it applies to the 670 MWe plant. Specifically, you requested that the staff stop work on the review of the TRACG application Licensing Topical Report (LTR) NEDE-32178 and provide a summary of the review of this document. With regard to the TRACG Qualification LTR NEDE-32177, you asked the staff for a written feedback on GE responses to the request for additional information (RAIs) and then to stop work on review of this document. With regard to the TRACG Model LTR NEDE-32176 you requested the staff to issue a letter of acceptability of this report by April 12, 1996, a draft safety evaluation report (DSER) by June 12, 1996, and a final safety evaluation report (FSER) by October 1996.

GE's request for orderly closure of the SBWR programs will result in the closure activities competing for resources with other high priority activities such as operating reactor issues. Consequently, the staff can not accelerate the schedule for closeout of open SBWR activities as you requested. The staff, however, developed the following schedule.

SBWR TESTING PROGRAM:

1. The staff will issue its safety evaluation report (SER) on TAPD Revision C by May 15, 1996. This report will describe events since the original submission of TAPD Revision A, the status of the staff's review of the testing performance and it will characterize the staff's opinion of the quality of the test program.

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2. The staff will provide the status of its review of the scaling report - what has been reviewed, what remains to be reviewed and comments relevant to these two areas by about May 17, 1996.
3. The staff will issue its report concerning the PANDA QA audit and the Ansaldo QA discussions by about April 30, 1996.
4. Per GE's request, with the exception of the review of the PANTHERS PCC data which will be completed and issued by April 22, 1996, the staff will not perform a detailed review of test reports and test analyses. The evaluation of the GIRAFFE (He and SIT) and Panda data will be limited to the QA program, the test procedures, the test objectives and the acceptability of the test data for purposes of licensing review. If GE meets the scheduled date for the submission of the final data report (DTR) for GIRAFFE He (April 26, 1996), the staff review will be issued by about May 25, 1996. Similarly, for a PANTHERS IC DTR delivered on April 15, 1996, the staff review will be issued around May 15, 1996, and for both GIRAFFE SIT and PANDA DTRs delivered on June 4, 1996, the staff review will be issued by mid-July 1996.

SBWR TRACG

1. The staff will prepare a written status of the review of the TRACG Application LTR by about May 31, 1996.
2. The staff will provide a written status on its review of GE responses to the staff's RAIs of the TRACG Qualification LTR and a summary of the status of the review of this report by about May 31, 1996.
3. The staff will issue a letter of acceptability of the TRACG Model LTR by May 15, 1996. However to proceed beyond this will require completed reviews of all the test data referred to in Item 4 above. Therefore, the staff does not plan to issue a DSER or FSER for the TRACG Model LTR at this time.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Son Ninh at (301) 415-1125 or Donald McPherson at (301) 415-1246.

Sincerely,

original signed by:  
Dennis M. Crutchfield, Director  
Division of Reactor Program Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-004

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Docket No. 52-004

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