



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

August 12, 1992

Mr. James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Taylor:

SUBJECT: ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIVING THE APPLICATION FOR
CERTIFICATION OF THE GE ADVANCED BOILING WATER
REACTOR DESIGN

During the 388th meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, August 6-8, 1992, we discussed our plan for reviewing the GE application for certification of the Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR) design. Our goal is to complete this review prior to the issuance of the Final Design Approval (FDA) that is scheduled for December 1992. Subject to receiving relevant information from GE and the NRC staff in a timely manner, we plan to meet this goal. Any significant delay on the part of GE and/or the NRC staff in providing necessary information to support our review will delay the completion of our review.

Our plan for review of the matters associated with the ABWR design is as follows:

I. Final Safety Evaluation Report (FSER), Certain Other Staff and GE Licensing Documents, and Remainder of the ABWR Standard Safety Analysis Report (SSAR) Submittals

NRC Staff's Schedule for Submittal of the FSER - In our April 13, 1992 letter to you regarding the ABWR Draft Safety Evaluation Report (DSER) we stated, "If we are to provide our final report on this subject in December 1992, it will be necessary that we receive a complete and final SER no later than early September 1992." Although the staff plans to issue the FSER by early September 1992, we understand that it will not be complete, and will contain a large number of open items. The staff plans to issue Supplement 1 to the FSER by late October 1992, documenting the resolution of the open items. Resolution of the remaining open items, if any, is expected to be addressed in subsequent supplements. The staff is not sure at this time whether there will be multiple supplements, or on what schedule they will be issued.

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Schedule for ACRS Review - In order to support the NRC's current schedule for issuing the FDA for the ABWR design, we plan to complete our final report to the Commission during our December 10-12, 1992 meeting. Our Subcommittee on Advanced Boiling Water Reactors has scheduled the following meetings to review the ABWR design.

August 19, 1992 - To discuss GE's and NRC staff's responses to the issues included in our April 13, 1992 letter.

September 23-24, 1992 - To start the review of the ABWR FSER, certain other GE and NRC staff licensing documents, and the remainder of the SSAR submittals.

October 21-22, 1992 - To continue the review of the FSER, other licensing documents, and the remainder of the SSAR submittals.

November 18, 1992 - To review Supplement 1 to the FSER and any residual issues.

If we are to complete our final report in December 1992, we will not be able to perform a meaningful review of the supplements issued after October 1992.

II. Design Acceptance Criteria (DAC)

NRC Staff's Schedule for Submittal of the FSER - At the end of May 1992, the staff provided its draft SER (SECY-92-196) on the DACs related to Radiation Protection and Piping Systems. The staff expects to provide its draft SER on the remaining DACs, in the areas of Man/Machine Interface and Control and Protection Systems, by early September 1992.

Schedule for ACRS Review - On June 16, 1992, we provided an interim report to the Commission that included specific comments on the Radiation Protection and Piping Systems DACs; owing to lack of detailed information, we provided only general comments on the Man/Machine Interface and Control and Protection Systems DACs. The staff plans to provide detailed information on the DACs related to Man/Machine Interface and Control and Protection Systems and updated information on the other two DACs by early September 1992. Based on this schedule, our Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Design Acceptance Criteria plans to schedule a meeting during September or early October 1992 to discuss this matter. We plan to complete a final report on these four DACs during our October 8-10, 1992 meeting.

III. Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and Acceptance Criteria (ITAAC)

NRC Staff's Schedule for Submittal of ITAACs - The staff has already provided ITAACs for a number of ABWR systems to the ACRS. The staff is reviewing these ITAACs and identifying areas where additional information is needed from GE.

Schedule for ACRS Review - In the April 1, 1992 Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM), the Commission requested that we review in some detail representative ITAACs submitted by GE, and provide recommendations to the Commission by August 21, 1992. Accordingly, a Subcommittee meeting was held on August 5, 1992, to review the following ITAACs:

- Standby Liquid Control System (suggested by Commissioner Rogers during the March 5, 1992, meeting between the ACRS and the Commissioners)
- Residual Heat Removal System
- Reactor Building Cooling Water System
- Emergency Diesel Generator System (Standby ac Power Supply)
- Control Building

The full Committee discussed these ITAACs with representatives of the NRC staff and GE during its August 6-8, 1992 meeting and provided a report to the Commission dated August 12, 1992.

IV. Summary

Completion of our review of the above-mentioned items in accordance with the schedule noted above depends upon timely receipt of relevant information and appropriate support by the staff and GE. If the staff has any problem in supporting any of the meetings noted above, we would like to hear from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



David A. Ward
Chairman