



Entergy

Entergy Operations, Inc.  
River Bend Station  
5485 U. S. Highway 61  
P.O. Box 220  
St. Francisville, LA 70775  
Tel 504 336 6225  
Fax 504 635 5068

Rick J. King  
Director  
Nuclear Safety & Regulatory Affairs

January 13, 1999

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Document Control Desk, OP1-37  
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: River Bend Station - Unit 1  
Docket No. 50-458  
License No. NPF-47  
Request for Additional Information for License Amendment Request (LAR) 97-16,  
Final Feedwater Temperature Reduction Analysis"  
(TAC NO. MA1594 )

File Nos.: G9.5, G9.42

Reference: RBG-44457, License Amendment Request (LAR) "97-16,  
Final Feedwater Temperature Reduction Analysis," dated April 9, 1998.

RBFI-99-0002  
RBG-44785

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On April 9, 1998, Entergy Operations, Inc. (EOI) submitted an application for amendment to the River Bend Station (RBS) Technical Specifications (TS) (*see* Reference). This request allows Final Feedwater Temperature Reduction (FFWTR) to extend the fuel cycle by maintaining the core thermal power at or close to rated by delaying the start of normal coastdown and decelerating the electrical power fall-off rate during the normal coastdown period. This improvement has been licensed for the other Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) plants in the United States including the Perry plant, a BWR6 similar to RBS.

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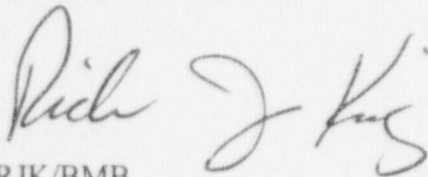
The Enclosure contains General Electric (GE) report NEDC-32549P, "Safety Review for River Bend Station Cycle 7 Final Feedwater Temperature Reduction," Revision 1, dated October 1998. This report contains the plant specific safety analysis prepared by GE in support of this change to the RBS license. Revision 1 of the GE topical report contains additional information regarding the feedwater nozzle fatigue evaluation and associated references. In addition, the identification of GE proprietary information is revised for this revision.

This analysis continues to demonstrate EOI's use of NRC approved GE methodology for FFWTR for fuel cycle extension and provides those cycle specific limits of RBS fuel Cycle 7 design. The analysis for fuel Cycle 8, our current operating cycle, included analysis supporting FFWTR for fuel cycle extension. These analyses determined the FFWTR condition is acceptable and would not require changes to current operating limits. River Bend Station does not anticipate use of FFWTR during the current fuel cycle (i.e., Cycle 8). FFWTR operation is being analyzed for the upcoming cycle core design and will be available as a cycle extension contingency for Cycle 9 and future cycles.

The Enclosure contains information proprietary to GE. GE requests that the document be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 (a) (4). The affidavits supporting this request in accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 (a) (4) are provided with the Enclosure.

This request has been discussed with the NRR project manager for RBS. The additional information provided for this change does not impact the scope of the original submittal nor affect the No Significant Hazards Consideration previously submitted in RBG-44457. If you have any additional questions or comments, please contact Mr. Barry Burmeister at (225) 381-4148.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rick J. King".

RJK/BMB  
Enclosure

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cc: Mr. Robert Fretz (w/ Enclosure)  
NRR Project Manager  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
M/S OWFN 13-H-3  
Washington, DC 20555

NRC Resident Inspector (w/o Enclosure)  
P. O. Box 1050  
St. Francisville, LA 70775

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (w/o Enclosure)  
Region IV  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, TX 70611

LA Department of Environmental Quality (w/o Enclosure)  
Radiation Protection Division  
P. O. Box 82135  
Baton Rouge, LA 70884-2135  
Attn: Administrator



# General Electric Company

## AFFIDAVIT

I, **George B. Stramback**, being duly sworn, depose and state as follows:

- (1) I am Project Manager, Regulatory Services, General Electric Company ("GE") and have been delegated the function of reviewing the information described in paragraph (2) which is sought to be withheld, and have been authorized to apply for its withholding.
- (2) The information sought to be withheld is contained in the GE proprietary report NEDC-32549P, *Safety Review for River Bend Station Cycle 7 Final Feedwater Temperature Reduction*, Revision 1, Class III (GE Proprietary Information), dated October 1998. The proprietary information is delineated by bold brackets around the specific material.
- (3) In making this application for withholding of proprietary information of which it is the owner, GE relies upon the exemption from disclosure set forth in the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 USC Sec. 552(b)(4), and the Trade Secrets Act, 18 USC Sec. 1905, and NRC regulations 10 CFR 9.17(a)(4), 2.790(a)(4), and 2.790(d)(1) for "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential" (Exemption 4). The material for which exemption from disclosure is here sought is all "confidential commercial information", and some portions also qualify under the narrower definition of "trade secret", within the meanings assigned to those terms for purposes of FOIA Exemption 4 in, respectively, Critical Mass Energy Project v. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 975F2d871 (DC Cir. 1992), and Public Citizen Health Research Group v. FDA, 704F2d1280 (DC Cir. 1983).
- (4) Some examples of categories of information which fit into the definition of proprietary information are:
  - a. Information that discloses a process, method, or apparatus, including supporting data and analyses, where prevention of its use by General Electric's competitors without license from General Electric constitutes a competitive economic advantage over other companies;
  - b. Information which, if used by a competitor, would reduce his expenditure of resources or improve his competitive position in the design, manufacture, shipment, installation, assurance of quality, or licensing of a similar product;

- c. Information which reveals cost or price information, production capacities, budget levels, or commercial strategies of General Electric, its customers, or its suppliers;
- d. Information which reveals aspects of past, present, or future General Electric customer-funded development plans and programs, of potential commercial value to General Electric;
- e. Information which discloses patentable subject matter for which it may be desirable to obtain patent protection.

The information sought to be withheld is considered to be proprietary for the reasons set forth in both paragraphs (4)a. and (4)b., above.

- (5) The information sought to be withheld is being submitted to NRC in confidence. The information is of a sort customarily held in confidence by GE, and is in fact so held. The information sought to be withheld has, to the best of my knowledge and belief, consistently been held in confidence by GE, no public disclosure has been made, and it is not available in public sources. All disclosures to third parties including any required transmittals to NRC, have been made, or must be made, pursuant to regulatory provisions or proprietary agreements which provide for maintenance of the information in confidence. Its initial designation as proprietary information, and the subsequent steps taken to prevent its unauthorized disclosure, are as set forth in paragraphs (6) and (7) following.
- (6) Initial approval of proprietary treatment of a document is made by the manager of the originating component, the person most likely to be acquainted with the value and sensitivity of the information in relation to industry knowledge. Access to such documents within GE is limited on a "need to know" basis.
- (7) The procedure for approval of external release of such a document typically requires review by the staff manager, project manager, principal scientist or other equivalent authority, by the manager of the cognizant marketing function (or his delegate), and by the Legal Operation, for technical content, competitive effect, and determination of the accuracy of the proprietary designation. Disclosures outside GE are limited to regulatory bodies, customers, and potential customers, and their agents, suppliers, and licensees, and others with a legitimate need for the information, and then only in accordance with appropriate regulatory provisions or proprietary agreements.
- (8) The information identified in paragraph (2), above, is classified as proprietary because it contains detailed results of analytical models, methods and processes, including computer codes, which GE has developed, obtained NRC approval of, and applied to perform evaluations of different plant conditions and parameters for the BWRs.

The development and approval of the BWR models, methods, processes and computer codes was achieved at a significant cost, on the order of a million dollars, to GE.

The development of the evaluation process along with the interpretation and application of the analytical results is derived from the extensive experience database that constitutes a major GE asset.

- (9) Public disclosure of the information sought to be withheld is likely to cause substantial harm to GE's competitive position and foreclose or reduce the availability of profit-making opportunities. The information is part of GE's comprehensive BWR safety and technology base, and its commercial value extends beyond the original development cost. The value of the technology base goes beyond the extensive physical database and analytical methodology and includes development of the expertise to determine and apply the appropriate evaluation process. In addition, the technology base includes the value derived from providing analyses done with NRC-approved methods.

The research, development, engineering, analytical and NRC review costs comprise a substantial investment of time and money by GE.

The precise value of the expertise to devise an evaluation process and apply the correct analytical methodology is difficult to quantify, but it clearly is substantial.

GE's competitive advantage will be lost if its competitors are able to use the results of the GE experience to normalize or verify their own process or if they are able to claim an equivalent understanding by demonstrating that they can arrive at the same or similar conclusions.

The value of this information to GE would be lost if the information were disclosed to the public. Making such information available to competitors without their having been required to undertake a similar expenditure of resources would unfairly provide competitors with a windfall, and deprive GE of the opportunity to exercise its competitive advantage to seek an adequate return on its large investment in developing these very valuable analytical tools.

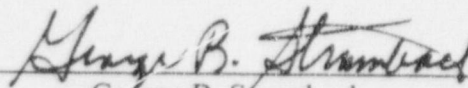


STATE OF CALIFORNIA            )  
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COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA        )

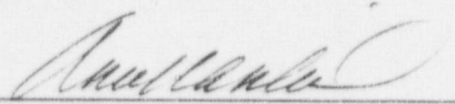
George B. Stramback, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he has read the foregoing affidavit and the matters stated therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief.

Executed at San Jose, California, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 1998.

  
George B. Stramback  
General Electric Company

Subscribed and sworn before me this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 1998.

  
Notary Public, State of California



**ENCLOSURE**

**NEDC- 32549P**

Note: this document provides the proprietary portions of the aforementioned request, General Electric Report NEDC-32549P. EOI requests that this attachment be held proprietary in accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(b) for the reasons stated in the attached General Electric affidavit.