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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention:

M. W. Hodges, Chief Reactor Systems Branch

Gentlemen:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of General Electric's plans for utilization of the improved BWR/2 LOCA Model.

We have been recently informed that because of other NRC priorities the approval of the SAFER Model and Application Methodology, has slipped to the end of January 1987. The extended NRC schedule is not consistent with General Electric's commitments to GPU Nuclear Corporation (GPUNC) and Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) for application of the improved methodology. In order to satisfy these commitments the analytical activities must begin immediately and therefore any code changes beyond this point will have a significant impact on the GPUNC/NMPC schedule. It is our understanding that the NRC review of the SAFER Model is complete and no NRC required changes are expected. Accordingly, General Electric plans to initiate the analysis using the SAFER code currently under review.

If you have any reason to believe that our understanding of the status of the SAFER review is incorrect, please notify me immediately. Flexibility still exists with regard to NRC acceptance of the BWR/2 Application Methodology; however, this could also become a problem if the SER is not completed by the end of January. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

H. C. Pfefferlen, Manager Safety and Fuel Licensing

HCP/dc

TOPRP

cc: H.N. Berkow (NRC)
T.E. Collins (NRC)
L.S. Gifford (GE Bethesda)
R.B. Lee (GPUN)
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