



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

August 10, 2022

Mr. Carlos Martinez, Site Manager  
GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy  
Vallecitos Nuclear Center  
6705 Vallecitos Road  
Sunol, CA 94586

SUBJECT: GE-HITACHI NUCLEAR ENERGY AMERICAS LLC – REGULATORY AUDIT  
REGARDING THE NUCLEAR TEST REACTOR TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS  
IN THE LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (EPID L-2020-RNW-0038)

Dear Mr. Martinez:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has prepared an audit plan related to the review of the Nuclear Test Reactor (NTR) Technical Specifications (TSs) for the GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas, LLC license renewal application. The enclosed audit plan provides the regulatory basis for the audit, describes the scope of the audit, identifies the audit team, and provides a listing of audit questions.

The audit will be conducted virtually and is intended to close gaps identified during the technical review. As such, the audit will be held on August 15, 2022, from 12:00pm to 3:30pm and on August 16, 2022, from 12:00pm to 3:30pm eastern time. If additional audit sessions are required, they will be scheduled in advance to support the continued review of the operating license application.

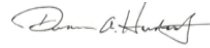
Following completion of the audit, the NRC staff will provide an audit report. The summary will include a description of any information identified during the audit that will need to be docketed to supplement the application and allow the NRC staff to continue its review.

C. Martinez

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If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-3724 or by electronic mail at [\[Duane.Hardesty@nrc.gov\]](mailto:Duane.Hardesty@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,



Signed by Hardesty, Duane  
on 08/10/22

Duane A. Hardesty, Senior Project Manager  
Non-Power Production and Utilization Facility  
Licensing Branch  
Division of Advanced Reactors and Non-Power  
Production and Utilization Facilities  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-073  
License No. R-33

Enclosure:  
As stated

Cc: See next page

GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas LLC

Docket No. 50-073

cc:

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California Department of Health  
ATTN: Chief  
Radiologic Health Branch  
P.O. Box 997414, MS 7610  
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Test, Research and Training  
Reactor Newsletter  
Attention: Amber Johnson  
Dept of Materials Science and Engineering  
University of Maryland  
4418 Stadium Drive  
College Park, MD 20742-2115

SUBJECT: GE-HITACHI NUCLEAR ENERGY AMERICAS LLC – REGULATORY AUDIT  
REGARDING THE NUCLEAR TEST REACTOR TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS  
IN THE LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (EPID L-2020-RNW-0038),  
DATED: AUGUST 10, 2022

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**ADAMS Accession No. ML22221A199**

**NRR-106**

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<b>NAME</b>	DHardesty	JBorromeo	DHardesty
<b>DATE</b>	8/10/2022	8/10/2022	8/10/2022

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION  
REGULATORY AUDIT PLAN  
REGARDING LICENSE RENEWAL  
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. R-33  
GE-HITACHI NUCLEAR ENERGY AMERICAS LLC  
NUCLEAR TEST REACTOR  
DOCKET NO. 50-073

Background

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is continuing its review of the GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas, LLC (GEH) Nuclear Test Reactor (NTR) license renewal application (LRA) dated November 19, 2020 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML21053A071), as supplemented by letter(s) dated September 10, 2021, September 22, 2021, December 16, 2021, April 4, 2022, and April 22, 2022 (ML21211A617, ML21265A247, ML22014A420, ML22132A272, and ML22112A236 respectively). This regulatory audit is intended to close technical gaps identified during the review of Chapter 14, as well as promote clarity of the GEH NTR Technical Specifications (TSs).

Regulatory Bases for the Audit

The proposed GEH NTR TSs are being reviewed in accordance with the applicable regulatory requirements of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 50, "Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities," and applicable guidance provided in NUREG-1537, "Guidelines for Preparing and Reviewing Applications for the Licensing of Non-Power Reactors," Part 1, "Format and Content," and Part 2, "Standard Review Plan and Acceptance Criteria" (ML042430055 and ML042430048, respectively).

Regulatory Scope for the Audit

The scope of this audit addresses GEHs proposed TSs for the NTR. The audit may also address TS and final safety analysis report (FSAR) revisions and additional information provided for other systems. Therefore, any additional information identified from the audit that is needed to address a regulatory finding may also be documented in the audit report.

Information Needed for the Audit

NTR staff should be prepared to support the NRC staff with the most recent proposed SAR, proposed TSs, and any supporting operating procedures, reports, calculations, and computer code verification to support the analysis documented in the bases for TSs, or rationale for any required plans and procedures.

Enclosure

### Audit Team

The NRC staff performing this audit will be:

- Duane Hardesty (Audit Leader and Technical Reviewer)
- Linh Tran (Technical Reviewer)
- Geoff Wertz, (Technical Reviewer)

### Audit Team Logistics

The virtual audit will be held on August 15, 2022, from 12:00pm to 3:30pm and on August 16, 2022, from 12:00pm to 3:30pm eastern time. This audit session will address the topics and questions on the proposed NTR TS (Accession No. ML22221A195). The audit period may be reduced or extended, dependent on the NRC staff and licensee progress in addressing audit questions. If new technical items are identified, additional audit sessions may be planned to support the understanding of information necessary to facilitate the continued review of the operating license application.

### Deliverables

At the completion of the regulatory audit the NRC staff will prepare a regulatory audit summary. The regulatory audit summary will include the documents reviewed, the audit activities, and any requests for additional information that were discussed or that will be issued based on the audit, as applicable.