



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

January 27, 2023

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

SUBJECT: GE-HITACHI NUCLEAR ENERGY AMERICAS, LLC – REPORT ON THE
REGULATORY AUDIT RE: NUCLEAR TEST REACTOR TECHNICAL
SPECIFICATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
REVIEW (EPID L-2020-RNW-0038)

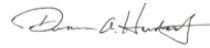
Dear Mr. Pedley:

By letter dated November 19, 2020, (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML21053A071), GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas, LLC, submitted a license renewal application (LRA) for a 20-year renewal of Facility Operating License No. R-33 for the Nuclear Test Reactor.

Enclosed is a report on the regulatory audit conducted by staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) from August 15, 2022 to January 25, 2023, in connection with its review of the application. The audit report does not make any licensing conclusions or findings, but it is part of the administrative record of the NRC staff's review of the LRA and may provide information supporting the NRC staff's safety evaluation. The audit followed the plan provided by letter dated August 10, 2022 (ADAMS Accession No. ML22221A199), unless otherwise noted in the enclosed report.

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

Sincerely,



Signed by Hardesty, Duane
on 01/27/23

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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Commissioner
California Energy Commission
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Sacramento, CA 95814

California Department of Health
ATTN: Chief
Radiologic Health Branch
P.O. Box 997414, MS 7610
Sacramento, CA 95899-7414

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 – REPORT ON THE REGULATORY AUDIT RE: NUCLEAR TEST REACTOR TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW (EPID L 2020-RNW-0038) DATED: JANUARY 27, 2023

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NRR-088

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NAME	DHardesty	JBorromeo	DHardesty
DATE	1/26/2023	1/27/2023	1/27/2023

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

Location: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Headquarters, Rockville, MD

Dates: August 15, 2022 – January 25, 2023

Audit Team Members:

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

Licensee Representatives: David Heckman, GEH

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) Accession No. ML21053A071). This regulatory audit is intended to close technical gaps identified during the review of review of Chapter 14, as well as promote clarity of the GEH NTR Technical Specifications (TSs).

This report summarizes the regulatory audit conducted by staff of the NRC staff from August 15, 2022 to January 25, 2023 in connection with its review of the LRA. The audit report does not make any licensing conclusions or findings, but it is part of the administrative record of the NRC staff's review of the application and may provide information supporting the NRC staff's safety evaluation. The audit followed the plan provided by letter dated August 10, 2022 (ADAMS Accession No. ML22221A199), unless otherwise noted in the enclosed report.

Audit Activities

The NRC audit team conducted the audit through virtual video-teleconferences. The NRC audit team opened the audit with an entrance meeting conducted on August 15, 2022, and participated in routine video teleconferences with the licensee throughout the audit period. The licensee provided requested information using an internet portal which allowed only the NRC audit team members to view the information.

Enclosure

The documents reviewed are as follows:

- CP 23-002 M220XXX GEH NTR Tech Specs Rev 5 Enclosure 4.pdf (various revisions)
- CP 23-002 M220-XXX GEH NTR TS & SAR Supplemental Enclosure 1.pdf

Requests for Supplemental Information

The NRC audit team requested that the licensee supplement the following on the docket.

- Final draft proposed GEH NTR technical specifications.
- Final draft proposed TS and & SAR Supplemental Enclosure (roadmap)

Exit Briefing

On January 25, 2023, the audit team held an exit briefing with the licensee representatives, including David Heckman, and other members of the GEH NTR staff. The NRC staff requested that the proposed final draft TSs and TS and SAR Supplemental Enclosure be submitted on the docket in support of the NRC staff review of the license renewal application. No disagreements were noted.

Deviations from the Audit Plan

None.