



HITACHI

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August 18, 2023

Samantha Lav, Chief
Fuel Facility Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety & Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Attn: Document Control Desk

Subject: GEH SNM-960 Triennial Update - Facility Decommissioning Funding Plan (DFP)
NRC Request for Additional Review

References:

- 1) NRC License SNM-960, Docket Number 70-754
- 2) S. P. Murray (GEH) to Director, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, SNM-960 DFP Revision 5, 3/30/22 (ML22089A087)
- 3) J. Zimmerman (NRC) to S. P. Murray (GEH), 2020 Triennial Update to DFP, 4/20/22 (ML22108A299)
- 4) NRC/GEH Meeting to Discuss the Transfer of the Vallecitos Nuclear Center (VNC) Site and Licenses, 5/16/23
- 5) S. Lav (NRC) to S. P. Murray (GEH), SNM-960 DFP NRC Request for Additional Review, Revision 5, 6/16/23 (ML23156A261)
- 6) NRC/GEH Telecom to Discuss SNM-960 DFP Draft Request for Supplemental Information 8/3/23

Dear Ms. Lav:

On March 30, 2022 (Reference 2), GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas, LLC (GEH) provided an NRC requested update for the Vallecitos Nuclear Center (VNC) SNM-960 license DFP. On April 20, 2023, NRC accepted this DFP revision (Reference 3) and revised SNM-960 to reference the March 20, 2022, submittal in Safety Condition S-1(b).

GEH is in receipt of the letter dated June 16, 2023 (Reference 5) that the NRC considers the DFP provided on March 30, 2022, to be the next submittal required by 10 CFR 70.25(e)(2) notwithstanding the April 20, 2022, letter.

As discussed with you and NRC staff on May 16, 2023 (Reference 4), GEH has announced its intent to transfer ownership of the VNC to a subsidiary of NorthStar Group Services, Inc ("NorthStar"). A request for NRC consent for the direct transfer of the VNC radioactive material licenses to NorthStar is planned to be submitted in the next few weeks. As will be detailed in the request for consent, NorthStar plans to rely upon a decommissioning financial assurance method that differs from the financial assurance method detailed in GEH's March 30, 2022, submittal.

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As a result, as discussed with NRC staff on August 3, 2023 (Reference 6), undergoing a detailed technical review of the DFP update submitted on March 30, 2022 for SNM-960 is likely to lead to additional expenditures of NRC and licensee time and resources, the output of which would be overtaken by the revisions in the license transfer application. Accordingly, GEH respectfully requests that the NRC delay its detailed review of the DFP until the request for consent to the direct license transfer has been submitted and the NRC has had a chance to review that filing.

Please contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss.

Sincerely:


Scott Murray, Manager
Facility Licensing

cc:
O. Siurano, NRC/NMSS/FFLB
SPM 23-032