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



December 20, 1999

Mr. James F. Klapproth, Manager
Engineering & Technology
GE Nuclear Energy
175 Curtner Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR WITHHOLDING INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

Dear Mr. Klapproth:

By letter dated November 12, 1999, and affidavit dated November 11, 1999, executed by George B. Stramback, GE Nuclear Energy (GENE) submitted topical report NEDC-31951P, Supplement 1, "BWR Owners' Group Response to NRC Safety Evaluation of BWROG Topical Report, Implementation of Improved Water Chemistry and Technical Basis for Revised Piping Inspection Schedules," April 1998, and requested that it be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790.

The affidavit stated that the submitted information should be considered exempt from mandatory public disclosure for the following reasons:

- "(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;
- (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."

We have reviewed your submittal and the material in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.790 and, on the basis of GENE statements, have determined that the submitted information sought to be withheld contains trade secrets or proprietary commercial information and should be withheld from public disclosure.

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PDR. TOPRP GE

Mr. James F. Klapproth

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Therefore, we have determined that the document entitled "BWR Owners' Group Response to NRC Safety Evaluation of BWROG Topical Report, Implementation of Improved Water Chemistry and Technical Basis for Revised Piping Inspection Schedules," marked as proprietary will be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790(b)(5) and Section 103(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Withholding from public inspection shall not affect the right, if any, of persons properly and directly concerned to inspect the documents. If the need arises, we may send copies of this information to our consultants working in this area. We will, of course, ensure that the consultants have signed the appropriate agreements for handling proprietary information.

If the basis for withholding this information from public inspection should change in the future such that the information could then be made available for public inspection, you should promptly notify the NRC. You also should understand that the NRC may have cause to review this determination in the future, for example, if the scope of a Freedom of Information Act request includes your information. In all review situations, if the NRC makes a determination adverse to the above, you will be notified in advance of any public disclosure.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at 301-415-3016.

Sincerely,

/s/
Robert M. Pulsifer, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 691

cc: See next page

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Mr. James F. Klapproth

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Sincerely,



Robert M. Pulsifer, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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cc: See next page

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