



16 March, 2000
LD-2000-0020

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION OF AN ISSUE CONCERNING APPLICATION OF THE
ABB CENP LARGE BREAK LOCA EVALUATION MODEL FOR PWRs**

- References: 1) Letter I. C. Rickard (ABB CENP) to USNRC Document Control Desk, Resolution of an Issue Concerning Application of the ABB CENP Large Break LOCA Evaluation Model for PWRs, LD-2000-0008, February 2, 2000
- 2) Letter, S. Dembek (NRC) to I. C. Rickard (ABB CENP), "Response to ABB Letter Dated February 2, 2000", March 10, 2000

The purpose of this letter is to close the loop on recent communications between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and ABB C-E Nuclear Power, Inc. (ABB CENP) regarding its Large Break Loss-of-Coolant Accident (LBLOCA) Appendix K Evaluation Model (EM) for Pressurized Water Reactors (PWRs). The subject issue was originally communicated to the NRC via Reference 1. Specifically, the issue concerned the potential for inconsistent prediction of cladding rupture time calculated by the blowdown hydraulics computer code, CEFLASH-4A, and the limiting fuel rod heatup computer code, STRIKIN-II. As a follow-up to the letter, ABB CENP and NRC staff discussed the matter in a telephone conference call on February 22, 2000. At that time, ABB CENP was informed that the NRC opinion was that correcting the subject issue in the manner described in Reference 1 would constitute an evaluation model change and, therefore, could not be handled solely by ABB CENP. The NRC formerly communicated this position to ABB CENP on March 10, 2000 (Reference 2).

ABB CENP accepts the NRC opinion and will make no changes to the approved LBLOCA evaluation model regarding the subject issue.

ABB C-E Nuclear Power, Inc.

P.O. Box 500
2000 Day Hill Rd.
Windsor, CT 06095-0500

Telephone (860) 285-9678
Fax (860) 285-4189

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to call me or Chuck Molnar of my staff at 860-285-5205.

Very truly yours,
ABB C-E NUCLEAR POWER, INC.



Ian C. Rickard
Director, Nuclear Licensing

xc: J. S. Cushing (NRC)
R. Caruso (NRC)
S. Dembek (NRC)