

September 15, 2009

Mr. Jerald G. Head  
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs  
GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas LLC  
P. O. Box 780, M/C A-18  
Wilmington, NC 28401-0780

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE FOR REVIEW OF GE-HITACHI NUCLEAR ENERGY AMERICAS, LLC TOPICAL REPORT NEDC-33436P, "GEH BOILING WATER REACTOR STEAM DRYER – PLANT BASED LOAD EVALUATION FOR BWR/2, BWR/3, BWR/4, BWR/6 AND ABWR" (TAC NO. ME0279)

Dear Mr. Head:

By letter dated November 7, 2008, GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas, LLC (GEH) submitted for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review Topical Report (TR) NEDC-33436P, "GEH Boiling Water Reactor Steam Dryer – Plant Based Load Evaluation [PBLE] for BWR/2, BWR/3, BWR/4, BWR/6 and ABWR." NEDC-33436P gives direction to refer to GEH TR NEDC-33408P and its supplement, which were submitted to the Office of New Reactors (NRO) for review and approval of the PBLE methodology for the Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor. NEDC-33408P and its supplement are currently under a detailed technical review by NRO. The NRC staff has had subsequent discussions with GEH staff to specify some additional information that would be needed to compliment NEDC-33436P. By letter dated July 24, 2009, GEH committed to submit two additional TRs (NEDC-33513P, "Steam Dryer Integrity Analysis Methodology" and NEDC-33514P, "Steam Dryer Structural Analysis Methodology") to compliment the implementation of NEDC-33436P.

The NRC staff has performed an acceptance review of TR NEDC-33436P. NEDC-33436P, as well as NEDC-33408P and its supplement contain adequate technical information, and hence NEDC-33436P is acceptable for a full detailed technical review with the following conditions: (1) since NEDC-33436P is not a stand-alone document, its detailed review will commence after the technical evaluation of NEDC-33408P and its supplement by the NRC staff is completed; (2) based on a cursory review of the topical report, the NRC staff has identified a potential need for requests for additional information (RAIs) to supplement the technical information contained in NEDC-33436P; and (3) GEH will submit the additional related TRs (NEDC-33513P and NEDC-33514P) as confirmed in the GEH letter dated July 24, 2009 (MFN 09-504). NEDC-33513P and NEDC-33514P will be independently reviewed for approval by the NRC staff once they have been submitted to the NRC.

The NRC staff expects to issue its RAI by February 12, 2010, and issue its draft safety evaluation by May 21, 2010. The NRC staff estimates that the review will require approximately 280 staff hours including project management time and the estimated contractor cost \$84,000. The review schedule milestones and estimated review costs were discussed and agreed upon in telephone conferences between James Harrison, Vice President Fuels Engineering and the NRC staff on February 4, 2009, and August 21, 2009.

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Section 170.21 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* requires that TRs are subject to fees based on the full cost of the review. You did not request a fee waiver; therefore, NRC staff hours will be billed accordingly.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Stephen Philpott at (301) 415-2365.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Stacey L. Rosenberg, Chief  
Special Projects Branch  
Division of Policy and Rulemaking  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 710

cc: See next page

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GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas

Project No. 710

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