

August 13, 2003

Dr. Atambir S. Rao, ESBWR Project Manager
Nuclear Plant Projects
General Electric Company
175 Curtner Avenue, M/C 365
San Jose, CA 95125-1014

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR WITHHOLDING INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
FOR JULY 8, 2003, MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR
REACTOR SAFEGUARDS THERMAL-HYDRAULIC SUBCOMMITTEE
(MFN-03-043)

Dear Dr. Rao:

By letter dated July 3, 2003, and associated affidavit executed on July 2, 2003, by George B. Stramback, you indicated that certain information contained in the presentation slides that were subsequently presented during the closed portion of a meeting of the Advisory Committee for Reactor SafeGuards (ACRS) Thermal-Hydraulic Subcommittee that was held on July 8, 2003, is proprietary. You requested that some of these presentation slides be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 2.790 (10 CFR 2.790).

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

- (1) the information discloses a process, method, or apparatus including supporting data and analyses, where prevention of its use by General Electric Company's competitors without license from General Electric constitutes a competitive economic advantage over other companies;
- (2) the information, 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; and
- (3) the information discloses patentable subject matter for which it may be desirable to obtain patent protection. GE is pursuing patent applications in the US Patent Office.

We have reviewed your letter and affidavit in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.790 and, on the basis of your statements, have determined that the slides presented at the July 9, 2003, ACRS meeting sought to be withheld, contain proprietary commercial information and should be withheld from public disclosure. Therefore, the version of the submitted information 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.

A. S. Rao

- 2 -

Withholding from public inspection shall not affect the right, if any, of persons properly and directly concerned to inspect the document. 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 should also 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 301-415-2875.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Amy E. Cubbage, ESBWR Project Manager
New Reactors Section
New, Research and Test Reactors Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 717

cc: See next page

A. S. Rao

- 2 -

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