



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

January 23, 2018

General Electric
Roy Blickwedel
Remedial Project Manager
640 Freedom Business Center
King of Prussia, PA 19406

SUBJECT: INFORMATIONAL RESPONSE TO GENERAL ELECTRIC/UNITED NUCLEAR CORPORATION'S DECISION NOT TO CONDUCT PRE-APPLICATION AUDITS ON PARTS OF THE DRAFT LICENSE AMENDMENT APPLICATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF REPOSITORY FOR NORTHEAST CHURCH ROCK MINE WASTE ON THE UNITED NUCLEAR CORPORATION MILL SITE

Dear Mr. Blickwedel:

On May 17, 2016, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) sent a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in which it offered to perform pre-application audits of portions of General Electric/United Nuclear Corporation's (GE/UNC's) draft license amendment application, regarding the construction of a repository for Northeast Church Rock (NECR) mine waste on the UNC Mill Site (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16035A472).

The pre-application audit was offered as a tool to GE/UNC so that GE/UNC could receive NRC comments on nearly complete sections of the amendment request. Specifically, the NRC would have reviewed the nearly complete application or nearly complete portions of the application and could have provided guidance on improving the application to address regulatory requirements or possible weaknesses in the proposal. This process was discussed to satisfy GE's time-table for getting the license amendment approved.

On September 28, 2017, you informed NRC staff that GE/UNC decided to forgo the pre-application audit process. This letter serves as NRC's acknowledgement that GE/UNC has decided not to participate in pre-application audits of a Church Rock license amendment at this time. The NRC remains ready to offer this process to assist GE/UNC in its development of this unique regulatory request to dispose of the mine wastes at the tailings repository.

My staff will continue to coordinate with your staff during this design review process. Please contact me or ask your staff to contact James Smith at 301-415-6103 or via e-mail at James.Smith@nrc.gov if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stephen Koenick, Branch Chief
Material Decommissioning Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery,
and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

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January 23, 2018

cc: R. Blickwedel, GE
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ADAMS Accession No.: ML17341B336

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