



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

August 20, 2019

Mr. Matthew Feyrer, Site Manager  
GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy  
Vallecitos Nuclear Center  
6705 Vallecitos Road  
Sunol, CA 94586

SUBJECT: GENERAL ELECTRIC-HITACHI NUCLEAR ENERGY AMERICAS, LLC–  
ACCEPTANCE OF THE APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE AMENDMENT RE:  
REVISION TO THE VALICITOS NUCLEAR CENTER SITE RADIOLOGICAL  
EMERGENCY PLAN (EPID L-2019-LLA-0159)

Dear Mr. Feyrer:

By letter dated July 1, 2019 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML19182A198), as supplemented by letter dated July 17, 2019 (ADAMS Accession No. ML19198A298) GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy Americas LLC applied for an amendment to Facility Operating License No. R-33 for the Nuclear Test Reactor. The license amendment request (LAR) proposes a decrease in effectiveness in the Valicitos Nuclear Center Site Radiological Emergency Plan (REP) under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50.54, "Conditions of licenses," paragraph (q)(4). Consistent with 10 CFR 50.90, "Application for amendment of license, construction permit, or early site permit," an application to amend the license (including the technical specifications) must fully describe the changes desired and follow, as far as applicable, the form prescribed for original applications. The requirements in 10 CFR 50.34, "Contents of applications; technical information," cover the technical information to be included in the application and stipulate that it address design and operating characteristics, unusual or novel design features, and principal safety considerations. In addition to the filing requirements of 10 CFR 50.90, the request must include all emergency plan pages affected by that change and must be accompanied by a forwarding letter identifying the change, the reason for the change, and the basis for concluding that the licensee's emergency plan, as revised, will continue to meet the requirements in Appendix E.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff performed an acceptance review of the LAR and concluded that it includes sufficient information for the NRC staff to begin its detailed technical review. Notwithstanding the acceptance review, the NRC staff may require additional information to complete the detailed technical review. If needed, the NRC staff will request this information by separate correspondence by April 27, 2020.

Based on the acceptance review, the NRC staff expects to complete its review and make a final determination on the LAR by July 31, 2020. This date could change due to several factors, including requests for additional information, unanticipated changes to the scope of the review, unsolicited supplements to the LAR, and others. If the forecasted date changes, the NRC staff will notify you in writing of the new date and an explanation of the reason for the change.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-3724 or by electronic mail at [Duane.Hardesty@nrc.gov](mailto:Duane.Hardesty@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Duane A. Hardesty, Senior Project Manager  
Research and Test Reactors Licensing Branch  
Division of Licensing Projects  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-073  
License No. R-33

cc: See next page

cc:

Jeffrey Smyly, Manager  
Regulatory Compliance  
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Thomas McConnell, Manager  
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David Heckman,  
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Commissioner  
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California Department of Health  
ATTN: Chief  
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P.O. Box 997414, MS 7610  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7414

Scott Murray, Manager  
Facility Licensing  
GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy  
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Test, Research and Training  
Reactor Newsletter  
Attention: Amber Johnson  
Dept of Materials Science and Engineering  
University of Maryland  
4418 Stadium Drive  
College Park, MD 20742-2115

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**ADAMS Accession Nos.****ML19226A240 Letter****ML19226A241 E-mail****ML19226A244 Package****\*concurred via email****NRR-004**

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