



70-1113

GE Nuclear Energy

General Electric Company
P.O. Box 780, Wilmington, NC 28402
910-675-5000

September 25, 1996

Mr. R. C. Pierson
Licensing Branch, NMSS
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop T 8-D-14
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Subject: Request to Reschedule the Biennial Emergency Exercise

References: (1) NRC License SNM-1097, Docket 70-1113
(2) Radiological Contingency & Emergency Plan

Dear Mr. Pierson:

The purpose of this letter is to request that a biennial exercise required in our Radiological Contingency & Emergency Plan (RC&EP) be rescheduled and placed on an alternate annual cycle: (1) due to hardships resulting from two recent hurricanes, and (2) in order for GE's biennial exercise not to be conducted within the same year as the Brunswick NNP's biennial exercise.

Our GE facility and the surrounding community has been seriously affected by two hurricanes in the past two months. The storms have placed enormous strain on personnel resources at GE and the community's emergency response agencies.

Section 7.3.1 of our RC&EP requires a biennial exercise to simulate an on-site emergency condition that will require participation by the site emergency organization and a number of the offsite support agencies. This exercise is witnessed by the NRC, and is currently scheduled for the last half of October of this year. Preparations for this witnessed exercise have been curtailed in order to respond to the destruction caused by the two hurricanes and to support the recovery efforts that are still ongoing.

The Department of Emergency Management for New Hanover County, which coordinates drills and exercises for our county, have informed us that they will be unable to participate in the October exercise. They also requested that the exercise cycle be changed so that two biennial exercises (GE and Brunswick NPP) not be held in the same year. The current schedule places a strain on all resources within the county, including the New Hanover Regional Medical Center, which is the primary medical facility for radiological incidents.

GE's ability to effectively manage an emergency and coordinate with offsite agencies has been demonstrated by our response to the two hurricanes and a recent emergency involving a lightning strike that injured several people.

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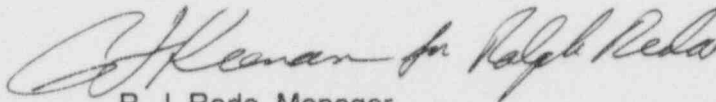
GE hereby requests to reschedule the NRC witnessed biennial exercise from October, 1996 to the second quarter of 1997. This will put us on an alternate year schedule that will not conflict with the Brunswick NPP's biennial drill. It will also remove unnecessary stress on GE and community personnel who are still recovering from Hurricanes Bertha and Fran, and will allow the full participation of the community offsite resources, including the hospital.

The advantages of rescheduling have been discussed with our Region II Emergency Preparedness Inspector, Mr. Al Gooden, on September 16, 1996, and he does not object to the request.

Please contact me at (910) 675-5889, if you have any questions or would like to discuss the matter further.

Sincerely,

GE NUCLEAR ENERGY

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. J. Reda" or similar, written in dark ink.

R. J. Reda, Manager
Fuels and Facility Licensing

/zb

cc: RJR-96-112