



**GE Nuclear Energy**

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3901 Castle Hayne Road  
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December 13, 1996

RJR-96-133  
MFN-179-96

Document Control Desk  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Attention: T. E. Collins, Acting Branch Chief  
Reactor Systems Branch

Subject: **Proposed Amendment 25 to GE Licensing Topical Report NEDE-24011-P-A  
(GESTAR II) on Cycle-Specific Safety Limit MCPR**

- Reference:
1. Letter from J. F. Klapproth to R. C. Jones, Jr., *R-Factor Calculation Method*, dated October 20, 1996, transmitting *R-Factor Calculation Method for GE11, GE12 and GE13 Fuel*, NEDC-32505P, November 1995.
  2. Letter from J. F. Klapproth to R. C. Jones, Jr., *GEXL10 Subcooling Data Extrapolation*, dated October 17, 1995.
  3. Letter from R. J. Reda to R. C. Jones, Jr., *R-Factor Calculation Method and GEXL Correlation*, dated February 26, 1996.
  4. Letter from Robert M. Gallo to Craig P. Kipp, *Nonproprietary Version of NRC Inspection Report No. 99900003/95-01*, dated March 5, 1996.
  5. Letter from D. B. Matthews to R. J. Reda, *Proposed General Electric Revision 12 to GESTAR II*, dated August 5, 1996.
  6. Letter from Robert C. Jones to R. J. Reda, *Request for Additional Information for R-factor Calculation Method NEDC-32505P and GEXL Correlation (TAC No. 95081)*, dated August 14, 1996.
  7. Letter from Robert M. Gallo to Craig P. Kipp, *NRC Inspection Report No. 99900003/96-01*, September 10, 1996.

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8. Letter from R. J. Reda to T. E. Collins, *Revised Responses to NRC Request for Additional Information, R-factor Calculation Method, NEDC-32505P and GEXL Correlation (TAC No. 95081)*, dated September 20, 1996.

9. Letter R. J. Reda to Robert M. Gallo, *Reply to Notice of Nonconformance*, dated October 9, 1996.

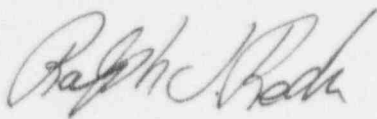
This letter submits for NRC review twenty-two copies of proposed Amendment 25 to GE Licensing Topical Report, *General Electric Standard Application for Reactor Fuel (GESTAR II, NEDE-24011)*. The purpose of this amendment is to provide for cycle-specific Safety Limit MCPRs that replace the former generic, bounding Safety Limit MCPR heretofore contained in GESTAR II. The Reference 5 letter requested GE to submit this information as an amendment rather as a revision to GESTAR II.

References 1 through 9 contain information that may be considered in the approval of Amendment 25. In addition to the GESTAR II page changes attached to this letter, supporting information is also provided that will aid in the approval of GESTAR Amendment 25. Proposed changes to GESTAR II have been identified by change bars in the margin. Please note that these change bars should not be confused with the proprietary information "brackets" discussed in the next paragraph.

Some of the information contained in the attachments to this letter is classified as proprietary to GE and is designated by "brackets" in the margins of the text. The proprietary information is of the type which GE maintains in confidence and withholds from public disclosure. It has been handled and classified as proprietary to GE as indicated in the affidavit attached. We hereby request that this information be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with the provisions of 10CFR2.790.

Please contact John Embley (910) 675-5774 with any questions.

Sincerely,



R. J. Reda, Manager  
Fuels and Facility Licensing  
(910) 675-5889, Mail Code J26

cc: R. C. Jones, Jr. (NRC)  
L. E. Phillips (NRC)  
C. J. Monetta  
J. L. Embley

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December 13, 1996

bcc: S. P. Congdon  
C. L. Heck  
P. C. Hecht (for MFN file) MC 781  
J. L. Rash  
C. W. Smith  
G. A. Watford



## Affidavit

**I, Ralph J. Reda**, being duly sworn, depose and state as follows:

- (1) I am the manager of Fuels and Facilities Licensing, General Electric Company ("GE") and have been delegated the function of reviewing the information described in paragraph (2) which is sought to be withheld, and have been authorized to apply for its withholding.
- (2) The information sought to be withheld is contained in this letter with the subject: *Proposed Amendment 25 to GE Licensing Topical Report NRDE-24011-P-A (GESTAR II) on Cycle-Specific Safety Limit MCPR*, dated December 13, 1996. This information is considered by GE to be of a proprietary nature which is indicated by brackets in the margin.
- (3) In making this application for withholding of proprietary information of which it is the owner, GE relies upon the exemption from disclosure set forth in the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 USC Sec. 552(b)(4), and the Trade Secrets Act, 18 USC Sec. 1905, and NRC regulations 10 CFR 9.17(a)(4) and 2.790(a)(4) for "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential" (Exemption 4). The material for which exemption from disclosure is here sought is all "confidential commercial information," and some portions also qualify under the narrower definition of "trade secret," within the meanings assigned to those terms for purposes of FOIA Exemption 4 in, respectively, Critical Mass Energy Project v. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 975F2d871 (DC Cir. 1992), and Public Citizen Health Research Group v. FDA, 704F2d1280 (DC Cir. 1983).
- (4) Some examples of categories of information which fit into the definition of proprietary information are:
  - a. Information that discloses a process, method, or apparatus, including supporting data and analyses, where prevention of its use by General Electric's competitors without license from General Electric constitutes a competitive economic advantage over other companies;
  - b. Information which, 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;
  - c. Information which reveals cost or price information, production capacities, budget levels, or commercial strategies of General Electric, its customers, or its suppliers;
  - d. Information which reveals aspects of past, present, or future General Electric customer-funded development plans and programs, of potential commercial value to General Electric;

## **Affidavit**

- e. Information which discloses patentable subject matter for which it may be desirable to obtain patent protection.

The information sought to be withheld is considered to be proprietary for the reasons set forth in both paragraphs (4)a. and (4)b., above.

- (5) The information sought to be withheld is being submitted to NRC in confidence. The information is of a sort customarily held in confidence by GE, and is in fact so held. Its initial designation as proprietary information, and the subsequent steps taken to prevent its unauthorized disclosure, are as set forth in (6) and (7) following. The information sought to be withheld has, to the best of my knowledge and belief, consistently been held in confidence by GE, no public disclosure has been made, and it is not available in public sources. All disclosures to third parties including any required transmittals to NRC, have been made, or must be made, pursuant to regulatory provisions or proprietary agreements which provide for maintenance of the information in confidence.
- (6) Initial approval of proprietary treatment of a document is made by the manager of the originating component, the person most likely to be acquainted with the value and sensitivity of the information in relation to industry knowledge. Access to such documents within GE is limited on a "need to know" basis.
- (7) The procedure for approval of external release of such a document typically requires review by the staff manager, project manager, principal scientist or other equivalent authority, by the manager of the cognizant marketing function (or his delegate), and by the Legal Operation, for technical content, competitive effect, and determination of the accuracy of the proprietary designation. Disclosures outside GE are limited to regulatory bodies, customers, and potential customers, and their agents, suppliers, and licensees, and others with a legitimate need for the information, and then only in accordance with appropriate regulatory provisions or proprietary agreements.
- (8) The information identified in paragraph (2) is classified as proprietary because it contains details of GE's fuel designs, analysis methods, and some calculations which GE has developed and will apply to the reload fuel design process.

The development and approval of GE's fuel design and its supporting analysis was achieved at a significant cost, on the order of several million dollars, to GE.

- (9) Public disclosure of the information sought to be withheld is likely to cause substantial harm to GE's competitive position and foreclose or reduce the availability of profit-making opportunities. The fuel design is part of GE's comprehensive BWR safety and technology base, and its commercial value extends beyond the original development cost. The value of the technology base goes beyond the extensive physical database and analytical methodology and includes development of the expertise to determine and apply the appropriate evaluation process. In addition, the technology base includes the value derived from providing analyses done with NRC-approved methods.

**Affidavit**

The research, development, engineering, analytical, and NRC review costs comprise a substantial investment of time and money by GE.

The precise value of the expertise to devise an evaluation process and apply the correct analytical methodology is difficult to quantify, but it clearly is substantial.

GE's competitive advantage will be lost if its competitors are able to use the results of the GE experience to normalize or verify their own process or if they are able to claim an equivalent understanding by demonstrating that they can arrive at the same or similar conclusions.


The value of this information to GE would be lost if the information were disclosed to the public. Making such information available to competitors without their having been required to undertake a similar expenditure of resources would unfairly provide competitors with a windfall, and deprive GE of the opportunity to exercise its competitive advantage to seek an adequate return on its large investment in developing these very valuable analytical tools.

State of North Carolina )  
County of New Hanover) SS:

Ralph J. Reda, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

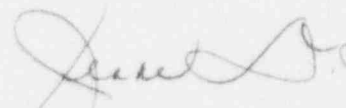
That he has read the foregoing affidavit and the matters stated therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief.

Executed at Wilmington, North Carolina, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1996



Ralph J. Reda  
General Electric Company

Subscribed and sworn before me this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1996



Notary Public, State of North Carolina

My commission expires: 7/24/97

