JUL 1 1 1985

Mr. James W. Vaughan, Jr.
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Nuclear Energy
Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Vaughan:

Your letter of April 26, 1985 provided for our review and concurrence a licensing plan for an advanced High Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor (HTGR). This licensing plan outlined the long range objectives and steps to be taken to develop a commercially viable HTGR and proposed in the near term (now through the end of FY 1987) a series of detailed interactions between our staffs directed toward our reviewing and providing licensing guidance on the conceptual design of the selected HTGR concept. Your letter also indicated that proposed plans for future interactions in the Liquid Metal Reactor (LMR) and advanced Light Water Reactor (LWR) areas would be forwarded for our approval later this year. Rather than wait for the LMR and LWR advanced reactor plans I would like to take this opportunity to respond to your proposal regarding the HTGR.

The long range objective of your HTGR program, as stated in the proposed HTGR Licensing Plan, is to submit an application for a standard plant review (in approximately FY 1989) and, upon NRC approval of the standard plant design, to file for certification of the design via the rulemaking process. As we understand your program this may be done prior to any demonstration or commercial unit construction or operation. Current NRC policy and regulations are consistent with such an approach; therefore, your long range plan is acceptable for planning purposes.

Note should be taken, however, of the Commission's Proposed Policy for Regulation of Advanced Nuclear Power Plants, published in the Federal Register on March 26, 1985 (50 FR 11882), in which the Commission identified several general characteristics that are considered desirable in advanced reactor designs which may prove helpful in obtaining early licensing or standardized design approval with minimum regulatory burden. One such desirable characteristic identified was "design features that can be proven by citation of existing technology or which can be satisfactorily established by commitment to a suitable technology development program." Discussion of your proposed plan in this regard at an early date would be most beneficial in order to reach a mutual understanding of how this aspect of your proposed plan might influence our review and approval of your proposed design, including the number and nature of regulatory requirements that could result from that review.

RD-10-5
x RD-25
ADVANCED REACTOR

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PDR ORG EUSDOE
PDR

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Based upon our review of the resources necessary to accomplish the requested activities we can commit to support your proposed interaction plans on the HTGR in FY 1986 and will request in FY 1987 sufficient resources to support the PSID review of the HTGR concept. However, should sufficient resources not be made available in FY 1987 or should your requests for interactions in the LMR and LWR areas exceed our available FY 1986 or FY 1987 resources, adjustment of this commitment may be necessary. Accordingly, it would be useful if in your future requests to us for interactions in the advanced reactor area you inform us of the priority you attach to your different requests. This will aid us in scheduling our resources and responding to your requests more effectively.

In the April 26, 1985 letter you also indicated your intent to identify an overall coordinator for the Department's advanced reactor activities to set priorities and to assure continued progress. We believe the identification of such a coordinator would contribute toward ensuring an effective and efficient interaction process between our staffs. Therefore, we welcome such a step and encourage its implementation as soon as possible. At this point the coordinator and principal contact on these matters within the NRC is Mr. T. L. King, Chief of the Advanced Reactors Group, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

In closing, I look forward to our staffs beginning this important interaction process on the advanced HTGR and to the mutual benefits to be gained from addressing licensing issues early in the design process.

Sincerely,

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations

Distribution

Central File	Denton/Eisenhut	
NRC PDR	K. Bowman	
W. Dircks	DST/CHRON	
J. Roe	ARG r/f	
T. Rehm	T. Speis	
V. Stello	T. King	
P. Rabideau	H. Thompson	
L. Barry	O. Bassett, RES	EDO Reading
R. Minogue	R. Foulds, RES	EDO (000580)
PPAS	ARG Staff	

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SURNAME	TKing/er	TSpeis	HThompson	DEisenhut	HDenton	WDircks	
DATE	6/25/85	6/25/85	6/27/85	6/5/85	6/5/85	6/10/85	

NRC FORM 318 (10 80) NRCM 0240 OFFICIAL RECORD COPY USGPO 1981—335-960

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Washington, D.C. 20585

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We are currently considering a revision to our standardization policy and one of the issues which we intend to address in this revision is the issue of what experience must exist relative to a particular design prior to NRC's conducting and granting a standard plant review on that design. Such a revision may impact your long range HTGR plan in this area and we will inform you of any revision as soon as possible; however, in the interim we consider your long range plan acceptable for planning purposes.

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NRC FORM 318 (10 80) NRCM 0240 OFFICIAL RECORD COPY USGPO 1981—335-96

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

EDO PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

FROM:

JAMES W. VAUGHAN
DOE

DUE: ~~05/13/85~~

Ltr dtd 04/12/85 per telecon w/Marge Bridges on 5/2/85

EDO CONTROL: 000580
DOC DT: 04/26/85
FINAL REPLY:

TO:

DIRCKS

FOR SIGNATURE OF:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

** GREEN **

SECY NO:

DESC:

REQUEST REVIEW & CONCURRENCE OF LICENSING PLAN FOR AN ADVANCED HIGH TEMPERATURE GAS-COOLED REACTOR (HTGR)

ROUTING:

LTR ONLY
DIRCKS
ROE
REHM
STELLO
RABIDEAU
BARRY
MINOGUE

DATE: 04/29/85
ASSIGNED TO: NRR CONTACT: DENTON

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

REF. EDO 358

Received NRR: 04/30/85
Contact: Speis

ROUTING:
Denton/Eisenhut
PPAS