



HITACHI

GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy

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

Subject: Renewal of Advanced Boiling Water Reactor Design Certification

The Advanced Boiling Water Reactor ("ABWR") design certification rule, 10 CFR Part 52, Appendix A, issued May 12, 1997, was effective for a period of 15 years from June 11, 1997. Because the rule – unless renewed – would expire June 11, 2012, GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy ("GEH") intends to seek renewal. GE Nuclear Energy (GEH's predecessor) was the original applicant for the U.S. ABWR design certification and GEH maintains the detailed design, supporting engineering data and analyses, proprietary information, and procurement, construction and installation specifications associated with the design certified to U.S. regulations, codes, and standards (see Section I of the ABWR design certification rule). It is GEH's intent to file an application for renewal of the ABWR design certification in accordance with the provisions in 10 CFR 52.57(a) between the period of June 11, 2009, and June 11, 2011.¹

In order that the NRC may schedule its resources for review of a renewal application, GEH currently proposes to file its detailed renewal application in mid-2010, with the NRC review commencing between June 2010 and October 1, 2010, as NRC resources are available. GEH requests that the NRC participate in pre-application meetings beginning in the first quarter 2009 to discuss the scope of such an amendment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Brown

¹ The regulations specify that the initial renewal application may be filed not less than 12 nor more than 36 months before the expiration of the initial 15-year period. 10 CFR 52.57(a).

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