Jerry Head
Sr. Vice President
Regulatory Affairs
GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy

In this role, I am responsible for managing our licensing team and providing leadership and strategic guidance for all the nuclear licensing activities in our business (New Plants, Services, and Fuel). I manage the business relationship with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, coordinate related industry interfaces with organizations such as NEI and INPO, and provide expert knowledge about the US NRC rules and regulations. I also lead international licensing efforts for the business.

My experience in the nuclear industry started with research reactor operations followed by initial startup testing of a BWR. Since that time, I have spent over 26 years in the commercial nuclear power industry in engineering roles of increasing responsibility involving both PWR and BWR reactor technology. My experience includes core design, Operations, probabilistic and deterministic safety analysis, plant system and design engineering, and support of numerous plant licensing efforts including power uprates and license extensions.

I have Bachelors and Masters degrees in Nuclear Engineering from Texas A&M University and I am a licensed Professional Engineer.

Remarks:

Regulatory stability, internationally and within a specific country, is a key concept when designing the next generation of nuclear power plants. Standardization of design provides safety, schedule, and cost benefits in construction and subsequent operation. Standardization of design requires, where possible, a standard but, more importantly, a stable regulatory framework. It is recognized that significant lessons learned such as the Japan earthquake must be addressed in licensing regimes. To do anything less would be irresponsible. However, it is important that the regulators of the world work together to appropriately balance technical adequacy, political environments, and risk-benefit to quickly arrive at the appropriate regulatory framework going forward. Note the singular context, I didn't say frameworks, as I am an optimist that the work underway here is moving us in that direction.