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NRC APPROVES PLANS FOR CONFIRMATORY RESEARCH
FOR ADVANCED, PASSIVE REACTORS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has acted on proposals from its staff for obtaining confirmatory research data related to the staff's review of Westinghouse Electric Corporation's AP600 passive reactor design.

It has authorized the staff to negotiate with the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute to develop an agreement for the use of Japan's ROSA-IV test facility to obtain high-pressure thermal hydraulic data and to join with Westinghouse in a cooperative program to obtain low-pressure thermal hydraulic data using a test facility at Oregon State University.

In addition, it has provided guidance to the staff for considering alternatives to the use of the ROSA-IV facility if that becomes necessary and has directed the staff to explore the possibility of the Department of Energy participating in funding such alternatives, if their use is needed.