



OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY

UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 15, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: Hugh L. Thompson, Jr  
Acting Executive Director for Operations

Karen D. Cyr  
General Counsel

FROM: John C. Hoyle, Secretary

SUBJECT: STAFF REQUIREMENTS - SECY-96-128 - POLICY AND  
KEY TECHNICAL ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE  
WESTINGHOUSE AP600 STANDARDIZED PASSIVE  
REACTOR DESIGN

The Commission agrees it is important that the AP600 design include adequate means for accident management and long term mitigation. However, the Commission does not support the staff's request for the inclusion of additional system(s) for accident management and long term mitigation following a severe accident as presented, not because it may be inappropriate, but because the basic design and performance requirements have not been bounded or specified, and the requested additional system(s) do not appear to be consistent with the concept of a passive design. The Commission is open to reconsideration of this issue if the staff can be more specific in terms of what additional system(s) are contemplated, including the design and performance requirements.

The Commission believes fission product removal coefficients for analyzing the consequences of design basis accidents should be based on technical merits, and should not be linked to the availability of one or more non-safety systems.

The Commission approved the staff's position that the site be capable of sustaining design basis events with onsite equipment and supplies for the long term, with replenishment of consumables (such as diesel fuel oil) from offsite suppliers after seven days.

SECY NOTE: THIS SRM, SECY-96-128, AND THE COMMISSION VOTING RECORD CONTAINING THE VOTE SHEETS OF ALL COMMISSIONERS WILL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE 5 WORKING DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS SRM.

The Commission approved the staff's position that Westinghouse use a balanced approach, involving reliance on in-vessel retention of the core complemented with limited analytical evaluation of ex-vessel phenomena, to address the adequacy of the AP600 design for ex-vessel events.

cc: Chairman Jackson  
Commissioner Rogers  
Commissioner Dicus  
Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
OCA  
OIG  
Office Directors, Regions, ACRS, ACNW, ASLBP (via E-Mail)