

June 28, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Stuart A. Richards, Director  
Project Directorate IV  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Steven D. Bloom, Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate I /RA/  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING HELD ON MAY 8, 2001, WITH THE  
WESTINGHOUSE OWNERS GROUP (WOG) AND SENIOR  
MANAGEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR  
REGULATION (NRR)

On May 8, 2001, representatives of the Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) met with senior management and staff from NRR. The purpose of the semi-annual senior management meeting (SMM) was to encourage communication between NRR management and the WOG, discuss current issues, and to provide status of current and emerging NRR/WOG activities. The attachment contains the list of meeting attendees. Copies of the slides used during the meeting are available under ADAMS accession number ML011410445.

The meeting began with introductions of the meeting attendees. The WOG stated the purpose and provided an overview of the agenda items. An organizational chart of the WOG Steering Committee was presented which included the Executive Committee and the Executive Management Group.

The WOG began with a discussion on the Risk-Informed (RI) Inservice Inspection (ISI), WCAP-14572, Addendum 1, review. The WOG explained that a pilot plant was used for the initial review and approval for WCAP-14572. However, in a letter from the NRC to the WOG dated March 8, 2001, the WOG was requested to submit a pilot plant application to determine the feasibility of formulating a generic approach. The NRC and WOG had a very informative discussion on this issue and determined that a future telephone conversation was necessary to resolve this issue. The WOG also discussed the issue of the requirement to examine a minimum of 10 percent of Class 1 butt welds. The WOG stated that the original approval of WCAP-14572 did not have this requirement and wanted to understand why the NRC was requiring a defense-in-depth issue. It was determined that this issue would be further discussed during the meeting that will be held on May 22, 2001, between Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), the WOG and the NRC on RI-ISI. The WOG was concerned that they were spending more time on defense-in-depth than on RI information.

RI anticipated transient without scram (ATWS) was the next item discussed by the WOG. The WOG commented that the recent letter on this issue indicated that the staff would be performing a "protracted" review which the WOG interpreted as a significant review that would require a defense-in-depth evaluation. The WOG explained that they had spent a lot of time and money

on this issue since 1998 and that they were being told by the NRC that there is still a major review by the staff to get approval. The NRC stated that the intent of the letter was to define the process for moving forward on this issue and that the NRC is waiting for the submittal from the WOG. The WOG informed the NRC that the lead plants would be Byron and Braidwood. Both sides indicated that after the submittal the staff would move forward and not allow the past to get in the way of the review. The WOG stated that the WCAP would be issued during the fourth quarter of 2001, which would include the Byron and Braidwood submittal.

The next agenda item was large break loss-of-coolant accident (LBLOCA) redefinition. The WOG indicated that the industry still wants to move forward on this issue. The WOG stated that the current work necessary to get NRC approval would cost about \$100 million. The issue is the ability to take pipe breaks out of the design basis which requires major work, analysis and evaluation to try and prove. The WOG is still not sure that they would be able to receive NRC approval. The NRC staff stated that it should not cost as much as the WOG believes, since some information and analysis is already available. The NRC staff stated that it takes a certain level of evaluation for rulemaking. The WOG disagreed with the statement that information is available. There was a discussion about the possibility of having a graded criteria with some level of protection for LBLOCAs instead of totally removing them from the design basis. A meeting was held on May 9, 2001, between the WOG and NRC, to discuss the recent ACRS meeting on the various options the NRC is evaluating. One of the topics was to be on the nine options that the NRC is considering as well as the cost associated with them.

The WOG next discussed the NRC initiatives such as RI emergency core cooling system. The discussion focused on the fact that decay heat was the most important parameter and also has the largest conservatisms involved. The WOG and the NRC staff discussed the fact that a "standard" curve for decay heat needs to be established, such as American Nuclear Society Standard 79. The discussion also included the fact that the curve needs to take into consideration  $2\sigma$  or 120 percent uncertainty. Appendix K states that the decay heat shall be assumed to be 1.2 times the values using the 1971 Standard, while the WOG wants to use the 1979 Standard with  $2\sigma$ .

The WOG summarized their concerns with RI regulations by stating that better communications and better Regulatory Guides are necessary. They also stated that both the WOG and NRC need to take into account the differences between the benefits to both sides. The NRC stated that of the eight RI-ISI submittals, five have been approved on schedule and three are under review. The three under review are raising the issue of the minimum of 10 percent of Class 1 butt welds inspections. The WOG stated that they have been focusing most of their resources on the 10 CFR 50.46 changes and have not yet looked at other areas.

The next item discussed was RI technical specifications (TS). The WOG stated that the post accident sampling system elimination was the first issue to be processed using the Consolidated Line Item Improvement Process (CLIIP.) The NRC stated that TSTF-358 would be approved in June 2001, and TSTF-359 in September 2001. Both of these will be implemented using CLIIP.

The WOG discussed the reactor coolant system cracking issue at VC Summer and stated that the maintenance repair program (MRP) was the lead for this issue. The MRP, following a meeting with the NRC, was developed because of a justification for continued operation (JCO)

due to the circumferential cracking on the control rod drive mechanism at Oconee. This was to be submitted on May 11. The JCO was to incorporate a leak before break type argument such as with axial cracking. The NRC staff stated that the licensees need to be looking for boron crystals and cracking now and not waiting for the spring and fall outages. Also, the NRC staff emphasized that the insulation should be removed so that the inspection was conducted on the bare metal. The NRC is planning on issuing an information notice on this issue. The NRC staff did state that industry did a good job in getting the information out to other potentially affected plants and the NRC.

The WOG informed the NRC on the various aspects of their strategic plan, which includes metrics for the effectiveness of the WOG towards the NRC. The NRC requested that the metrics related to the NRC be discussed at the next senior management meeting and that the NRC be given input before that meeting to improve the quality of the product. The WOG stated that they will identify power uprate and other high visibility issues early to the NRC.

The next item was a discussion of the review status of WOG WCAP submittals and WOG projected submittals. This information is included with the briefing slides.

The meeting was closed with a brief discussion of having a consolidated owners group meeting with Sam Collins (NRR) and Brian Sheron (NRR) in the future.

The action items that resulted from the meeting were:

- (1) The staff and WOG will conduct a telephone call to discuss the pilot program issue related to the RI ISI program.
- (2) The agenda for the May 22, 2001, meeting regarding RI-ISI, would be evaluated to ensure that an informative meeting discussion was held.
- (3) The WOG would submit their ATWS program and then an appropriate schedule would be determined by the WOG and NRC.
- (4) The WOG would submit their metrics after their self assessment.
- (5) The NRC and WOG would have a telephone conversation on the break opening time topical report.
- (6) The NRC would verify the completion date for the WOG 2000 reactor coolant pump seal leakage model.

Project No. 694

Attachment: List of Attendees

cc w/att: See next page

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Westinghouse Owners Group

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MEETING WITH WESTINGHOUSE OWNERS GROUP

MEETING ATTENDEES

SENIOR MANAGEMENT MEETING

MAY 8, 2001

**NRC**

S. Collins  
B. Sheron  
G. Holahan  
J. Strosnider  
S. Bloom  
M. Banerjee  
M. Snodderly  
B. Elliot  
M. Cheok  
S. Dembek  
F. Akstulewicz  
S. Dinsmore  
S. Ali  
M. Drouin  
M. Caruso  
T. Tjader  
M. Mayfield

**WOG**

B. Bryan  
D. Lounsbury  
B. Barron  
H. Kim  
R. Etling  
C. Brinkman  
D. Morey  
G. Eckholt  
D. Weakland  
A. Drake  
R. Muench

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MAY 8, 2001

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