

September 26, 2001

Mr. Richard Bernier, Chairman
CE Owners Group
Mail Stop 7868
Arizona Public Service Company
Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station
P.O. Box 52034
Phoenix, Arizona 85072-2034

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE FOR REVIEW - WCAP-15691, "JOINT APPLICATIONS
REPORT FOR CONTAINMENT INTEGRATED LEAK RATE TEST INTERVAL
EXTENSION" (TAC NO. MB2554)

Dear Mr. Bernier:

The NRC staff has performed an acceptance review of WCAP-15691, "Joint Applications Report for Containment Integrated Leak Rate Test Interval Extension." We have found that the material presented is complete enough to begin a review. The staff expects to issue requests for additional information by February 15, 2002, and complete its review by July 19, 2002, and estimates that the review will require approximately 200 staff hours.

The staff and the Combustion Engineering Owners Group (CEOG) agreed as part of the topical report (TR) improvement process to agree on the fee billing for the report prior to reviewing the TR. In your July 19, 2001, submittal letter, you asked that the bill for review fees be sent to the CEOG. The staff is reviewing the report on a fee billable basis.

By letter dated August 28, 2001, you explained your reasons for requesting the February 22, 2002, review date. We understand the reasons for the requested review date; however, the short time frame involved precludes reviewing a new methodology and issuing a safety evaluation on the TR and license amendments to the licensees who desire to reference the TR.

The staff is committing its resources to reviewing license amendments requesting containment leak rate interval extensions. In the short term, the staff is reviewing license amendments based on precedent license amendments. The staff will be able to review amendments required after July 19, 2002, that reference the TR.

Mr. Richard Bernier

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September 26, 2001

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jack Cushing at 301-415-1424.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stephen Dembek, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 692

cc: See next page

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jack Cushing at 301-415-1424.

Sincerely,
/RA/

Stephen Dembek, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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CE Owners Group

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