



OG-01-075
December 19, 2001

WCAP-15712, Rev. 0 (Proprietary)
Project Number 694

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Washington, DC 20555-0001

Attention: Chief, Information Management Branch,
Division of Inspection and Support Programs

Subject: Westinghouse Owners Group
**Transmittal of WCAP-15712, Rev. 0, (Proprietary), "IRI High Burnup
Threshold Assessment Program" (MUHP-1900)**

Reference 1 WOG Letter to NRC, "Westinghouse Owners Group Position Paper on
Incomplete Rod Insertion," OG-97-113, October 17, 1997

This letter transmits five (5) copies of WCAP-15712, Rev. 0 (Proprietary), "IRI High Burnup Threshold Assessment Program," dated November 2001. WCAP-15712 addresses an NRC concern relative to the Incomplete Rod Insertion (IRI) issue that a 'data void' existed in measured fuel assembly drag from fuel assemblies with exposures greater than 50,000 MWD/MTU (assembly average). WCAP-15712 evaluated an additional 104 fuel assemblies with exposures greater than 50,000 MWD/MTU. Based on these additional evaluations as reported in WCAP-15712, the WOG along with Westinghouse have concluded:

- The existing WOG Fuel Burnup Threshold limits for rodged assemblies, as reported in reference 1, are conservative and should not be changed.
- Implementation of fuel design features, such as IFM grids, thicker thimble tubes or smaller bottom nozzle rod gap (BNRG), reduces the potential for IRI.
- The IRI issue has been addressed and additional analysis or testing is not needed.
- IRI issue with respect to fuel assembly /thimble tube bowing is closed.

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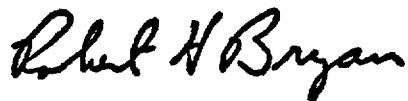
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If you require further information, feel free to contact Mr. Ken Vavrek in the Westinghouse Owners Group Project Office at 412-374-4302.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert H. Bryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert H. Bryan, Chairman
Westinghouse Owners Group

enclosures

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cc: Westinghouse Owners Group Primary Representatives (1L)
Westinghouse Owners Group Steering Committee (1L)
Westinghouse Owners Group Analysis Subcommittee Representatives (1L)
Westinghouse Owners Group Fuel Working Group Representatives (1L)
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