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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Your ref: Project 711
Our ref: DCP/NRC1509

May 15, 2002

SUBJECT: Additional Justification for AP1000 Fire Probabilistic Risk Assessment

On May 1, 2002, Westinghouse presented the AP1000 Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA) to the staff. The AP1000 PRA report is a design-specific level 1, 2 and 3 PRA, and it addresses external events, shutdown, flooding and fire, and contains sensitivity studies, importance assessments, and uncertainty evaluations. The meeting provided an excellent forum for discussion, and I believe the staff gained a good understanding of our PRA report.

The staff has provided feedback based on their initial review of the AP1000 PRA, and based on the material presented at the May 1 meeting. Based on this feedback, we have decided to provide additional justification supporting our fire PRA assessment provided in the AP1000 PRA report. The fire PRA assessment for the AP1000 was based on the fire PRA performed for the AP600. The AP600 fire PRA was performed with the AP600 focused PRA model, which did not credit non-safety equipment including fire suppression design features that were subsequently added to the AP600 and AP1000 designs. The fire PRA for AP600 presents a conservative representation of the risk to fire for the AP1000. We recognize that additional justification is desired by the staff to reconcile differences between the AP600 fire PRA study and the AP1000 design. Specifically, additional justification will be provided to the staff to address the following items:

1. Location of equipment that may have changed between the AP600 fire PRA study and the AP1000 design
2. Definitions of fire area zones and combustible loading that may have changed between the AP600 fire PRA study and the AP1000 design
3. Success criteria that may have changed between the AP600 fire PRA study and the AP1000 design
4. Incorporation of fire suppression design features and manual actions taken to mitigate the consequences of a fire that were not credited in the AP600 fire PRA study
5. The treatment of hot shorts in light of recent industry reports addressing this issue

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Our plan is to provide the additional justification to the staff by July 2002.

Please contact me at 412-374-5355 if you have any questions concerning this submittal.

Very truly yours,



M. M. Corletti
Passive Plant Projects & Development
AP600 & AP1000 Projects

cc: Lawrence Burkhart - U.S. NRC, Washington, D.C.