

*1. J. H. ...*  
*2. D. ...*  
**Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

TO : Files

DATE: September 30, 1960

FROM : Harold L. Price *HL*

SUBJECT: WTR

After review of the data relating to the WTR incident of April 3, 1960, it appeared that the administrative procedures followed by Westinghouse at the site were not wholly adequate. The attached draft letter was prepared to be sent to Westinghouse. Prior to sending the letter to Westinghouse, officials of the licensee visited Germantown and the problem of administrative procedures was discussed. As a result of that meeting, Westinghouse submitted a description of revised procedures which would be observed at the site. These revised procedures were submitted by letter dated August 15, 1960.

In view of the foregoing, the attached letter was not sent to Westinghouse.

Enclosure:  
As stated

*A/55*

Draft II  
Booth;jwl  
8/2/60

Project 8  
Doclet 50-22

Westinghouse Electric Corporation  
P. O. Box 1075  
Pittsburgh 30, Pennsylvania

Attention: Mr. E. T. Morris

Gentlemen:

This is in reference to Westinghouse letters to the Commission dated July 11 and 18, 1960 and Report WTR-49 dated July 7, 1960 which discuss the failure of a fuel element at the Westinghouse Testing Reactor April 3, 1960 and certain corrective measures taken to prevent recurrence of such a failure and letters dated July 8 and 25, 1960 which discuss certain proposed changes in the head tank venting system.

We have reviewed the foregoing documents and the inspection reports relative to this case and believe that the design changes which have been made and the plans for and restrictions to be observed during startup and operation of the WTR are satisfactory; that certain actions of management at WTR may have contributed to the April 3, 1960 incident, and in any event comprise questionable practices in the ~~xxxxxxx~~ safe operation of a testing reactor. We believe that advance planning and review of special tests with the reactor, including the one which resulted in the April 3, 1960 incident, was generally inadequate; that the specifications and precautions to be observed in the conduct of the tests were not translated into detailed operating procedures for the reactor operators and that reactor supervisors at times of special experiments may not have been sufficiently experienced.

Westinghouse is requested to file with the Commission a statement with respect to these matters and what actions may be contemplated to produce more effective policies of safety in the organizational and managerial area.

Sincerely yours,

DRAFT  
MBooth:alp  
8/2/60

Westinghouse Electric Corporation  
P. O. Box 1075  
Pittsburgh 30, Pennsylvania

Project 8  
Docket 50-22

Attention: Mr. <sup>E.T. Morris</sup>~~M.A. Schmitz~~

Gentlemen:

This is in reference to Westinghouse letters to the Commission dated July 11 and 18, 1960 and report WTR-49 dated July 7, 1960 which discuss the failure of a fuel element at the Westinghouse Testing Reactor April 3, 1960 and certain corrective measures taken to prevent recurrence of such a failure and letters dated July 8 and 25, 1960 which discuss certain proposed changes in the head tank venting system.

We have reviewed the foregoing documents and the inspection reports relative to this case and believe that the design changes which have been made and the plans for and restrictions to be observed during startup and operation of the WTR are satisfactory. Our review has disclosed, however, that certain actions of management at WTR may have contributed to the April 3, 1960 incident, and in any event comprise questionable practices contrary to the safe operation of a testing reactor. Our review has disclosed that the planning and review of the special test which resulted in the April 3, 1960 incident was inadequate, that the specifications and precautions to be observed in the conduct of the test were not translated into operating procedures for the reactor operator, and that the reactor supervisor on duty at the time of the incident was inexperienced. From our review of this case and the reports submitted by Westinghouse it does not appear that the responsibilities of management to employ sound principles of organization and procedure have been objectively considered by the Company.

Westinghouse is therefore requested to file with the Commission a statement

with respect to these allegations and the actions to be taken to correct the deficiencies in management of the WTR.

Sincerely yours,

Director  
Division of Licensing  
and Regulation