

July 29, 2003

Mr. Henry A. Sepp, Manager  
Regulatory and Licensing Engineering  
Westinghouse Electric Company  
P.O. Box 355  
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF WCAP-16072-P, REVISION 0, "IMPLEMENTATION OF ZIRCONIUM DIBORIDE BURNABLE ABSORBER COATINGS IN CE NUCLEAR POWER FUEL ASSEMBLY DESIGNS" FOR REVIEW (TAC NO. MB8721)

Dear Mr. Sepp:

By letter dated April 25, 2003, Westinghouse Electric Company submitted for NRC staff review Topical Report (TR) WCAP-16072-P, Revision 0, "Implementation of Zirconium Diboride Burnable Absorber Coatings in CE Nuclear Power Fuel Assembly Designs." It also requested, consistent with the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation Instruction LIC-500, "Processing Requests for Review of Topical Reports," that the NRC provide an estimate of the review hours, as well as target dates for any requests for additional information (RAIs) and for the completion of the safety evaluation for the TR.

The NRC staff has performed an acceptance review of the TR. We have found that the material presented is sufficient to begin our comprehensive review. The staff expects to issue RAIs by August 15, 2003, and complete its review by December 31, 2003, and estimates that the review will require approximately 350 staff hours.

Section 170.21 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* requires that TRs are subject to fees based on the full cost of the review. You did not request a fee waiver; therefore, staff hours will be billed accordingly. To enable us to complete this review on schedule, close and frequent communications between our technical staffs will be required.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Brian Benney, Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate IV  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 700

cc: See next page

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Brian Benney, Project Manager, Section 2  
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Division of Licensing Project Management  
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Westinghouse Electric Company

Project No. 700

cc:

Mr. Gordon Bischoff, Manager  
Owners Group Program Management Office  
Westinghouse Electric Company  
P.O. Box 355  
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355