

May 27, 2004

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

FROM: Girija S. Shukla, Project Manager, Section 2 **/RA/**
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: SUSPENSION OF THE NRC ACCEPTANCE REVIEW OF
WESTINGHOUSE OWNERS GROUP TOPICAL REPORT
WCAP-15691-NP, REV. 5, "JOINT APPLICATIONS REPORT FOR
CONTAINMENT INTEGRATED LEAK RATE TEST INTERVAL
EXTENSION" (TAC NO. MC2766)

The Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) submitted Topical Report (TR) WCAP-15691-NP, Rev. 5, "Joint Applications Report for Containment Integrated Leak Rate Test Interval Extension," by letter dated March 31, 2004, for staff review. This TR requested the staff to review and approve the methodology, to extend on a one-time basis, the containment integrated leak rate test (ILRT) interval from 10 years to 15 years. The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) plans to submit a related TR very soon that will request approval of a permanent change to extend the containment ILRT interval from 10 years to 20 years.

In light of these two similar TRs being submitted for the staff review, the staff (Messrs. Herb Berkow, Girija Shukla, and Harold Walker) had a telephone conference with the WOG staff (Messrs. Paul Hijack, Steve DiTommaso, and Virgil Paggen) on May 21, 2004, to discuss the coordination of the WOG with NEI on this TR, since the staff has been told that NEI had requested the WOG to withdraw this TR. The WOG staff informed us that they are considering NEI's request to withdraw WCAP-15691-NP, Rev. 5 and the WOG will make its decision in a few weeks.

The WOG's basis for asking the staff to accept their TR for review, as discussed in the phone call, is weak and we told them we would have difficulty justifying the resources for the review. Rather than rejecting the TR, we believe it is preferable to give the WOG the opportunity to withdraw it. Therefore, until the WOG makes that decision, the staff's acceptance review of WCAP-15691-NP, Rev. 5 is being suspended and the 45-day clock is being stopped as of May 21, 2004.

Project No. 694

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