



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET SW SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

July 1, 2004

Westinghouse Electric Company
ATTN: Mr. M. Fecteau, Manager
Columbia Plant
Commercial Nuclear Fuel Division
Drawer R
Columbia, SC 29250

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 70-1151/2004-003

Dear Mr. Fecteau:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) conducted a routine, announced fire safety inspection at your facility in Columbia, South Carolina, from June 7 through 10, 2004. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities involving licensed materials were conducted safely and in accordance with regulatory requirements. An exit meeting was held on June 10, 2004, during which time observations from the inspections were discussed with you and members of your staff.

The inspection consisted of facility walk down; selective examinations of relevant procedures and records; examinations of safety-related structures, systems, equipment and components; interviews with plant personnel; and observations of plant conditions and activities in progress. Throughout the inspection, observations were discussed with your managers and staff. Based on the inspection, your activities involving fire safety were found to be conducted safely and in accordance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of NRC's "Rules of Practice," this document may be accessed through the NRC's public electronic reading room, Agency-Wide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jay L. Henson, Chief
Fuel Facility Inspection Branch 2
Division of Fuel Facility Inspection

Docket No. 70-1151
License No. SNM-1107

Enclosure: (See page 2)

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report

cc w/encl:

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Environment, Health and Safety
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Westinghouse Electric Corporation
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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Docket No: 70-1151

License No.: SNM-1107

Report No.: 70-1151/2004-003

Licensee: Westinghouse Electric Company

Location: Columbia, SC

Inspection Dates: June 7-10, 2004

Inspector: Merritt N. Baker, Senior Fuel Facility Inspector,
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch (FCFB)
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards (DFCSS)
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (ONMSS)

Accompanied By: Norma Garcia-Santos, Special Projects Branch, DFCSS, ONMSS
Elizabeth Thompson, FCFB, DFCSS, ONMSS

Approved: Jay Henson, Chief
Fuel Facility Inspection Branch 2
Division of Fuel Facility Inspection
Region II

Enclosure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Commercial Nuclear Fuel Division NRC Inspection Report 70-1151/2004-003

Introduction

Staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission performed a routine and announced fire safety inspection at the Westinghouse Electric Company (WEC) facility from June 7-10, 2004. The inspections focused on risk-significant plant operations.

Results

- ▶ No new safety concerns were identified during the inspection.
- ▶ Plant operations in the observed areas were conducted in a firesafe manner.
- ▶ Inspection, testing, and maintenance for key fire protection components were adequately implemented.
- ▶ The licensee's active fire protection systems were available to perform their intended function.

REPORT DETAILS

FIRE SAFETY

1. Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance

a. Scope

The inspector reviewed selected fire protection inspection, testing, and maintenance procedures and records, including but not limited to:

- ▶ sprinkler system inspection
- ▶ fire hose inspection
- ▶ hose house inspection
- ▶ fire pump #1 and #2
- ▶ fire pump flow test
- ▶ sprinkler system riser gauges
- ▶ incinerator fire doors
- ▶ monitor nozzles
- ▶ hydrants

The inspector examined pump houses #1 and #2 to assess the overall condition of fire pump components such as suction and discharge piping, fire pumps, diesel engines, and electrical system.

b. Observations and Findings

The inspector verified that the frequency and scope of activities were in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)-25, "Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems."

The material condition of the fire pumps and accessories was satisfactory.

c. Conclusions

Inspection, testing, and maintenance for key fire protection components were adequately implemented to ensure the availability and reliability for performance of their intended safety functions.

2. Control of Combustibles

a. Scope

The inspector performed walk downs of plant areas to ensure that combustibles were adequately controlled.

b. Observations and Findings

The inspector verified that flammable liquids were properly stored in designated cabinets. Transient combustibles in the operating process areas were adequately controlled to

levels below that which could result in a significant fire. Flammable gases were stored in accordance with NFPA-30, "Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code."

c. Conclusions

The licensee's programs for controlling combustibles were adequate. Low fire loadings and good separation of processes remained the primary passive control of fire hazards.

3. Fire Brigade and Emergency Response

a. Scope

The inspector reviewed the status of training for fire brigade members and examined the equipment in the fire brigade building, including, but not limited to:

- ▶ emergency vehicles
- ▶ command center
- ▶ self contained breathing apparatus bottles and filling station
- ▶ turnout gear
- ▶ hoses and hose racks

The inspector also reviewed the site Emergency Plan as it applied to fire protection.

b. Observations and Findings

The inspector confirmed that training for fire brigade members was current and sufficient numbers of qualified responders were available for all shifts.

The inspector verified that the emergency vehicles and incident command center were properly maintained and stocked with the equipment required for event response.

Section 4.27 of the Emergency Plan required letters of agreement with offsite emergency response organizations to be renewed every four years. The inspector verified that the renewal process was performed in 1997 and 2001. The licensee obtained current copies, and clarified that the agreement with Palmetto Richland Hospital was renewed annually in the form of a contract. The inspector confirmed that distances and driving times to the fire stations (Atlas Road and Industrial Park) listed in the safety documents were accurate.

c. Conclusions

Training and equipment for the licensee's emergency response team and incident command group were satisfactory.

4. Engineered Fire Protection Systems

a. Scope

The inspector examined fire protection systems, including:

- ▶ hydrants
- ▶ hose houses
- ▶ post indicator valves (PIV's)
- ▶ portable extinguishers
- ▶ automatic sprinklers
- ▶ hose reels
- ▶ heat detectors
- ▶ smoke detectors

b. Observations and Findings

The inspector confirmed that automatic sprinkler systems were in service with no apparent impairments or material conditions of concern. The licensee confirmed that PIV #29 was connected to a section of risers that is not in use because the location is a moderator exclusion area, and the PIV is locked and tagged SHUT.

Portable extinguishers of the appropriate size and type were available throughout the facility.

c. Conclusions

The licensee's active fire protection systems are capable and available to perform their intended function.

5. Pre-Fire Plans

a. Scope

The inspector examined and performed field walk downs of selected sections of the recently issued pre-fire plans, including but not limited to:

- ▶ main tank farm area
- ▶ fire pump building #1
- ▶ fire pump building #2
- ▶ solvent extraction, incinerator, dissolvers
- ▶ ammonium diuranate conversion and scrap recovery area
- ▶ Uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) bay and hot oil room
- ▶ roof areas and penthouse

b. Observations and Findings

The pre-fire plans were verified to be accurate and clearly indicated the location of fire suppression equipment, areas of concentration of combustibles, flammable liquids, and areas where the use of water for fire suppression is restricted. The licensee was working with their consultant to update the pre-fire plans. The inspector discussed the update with the consultant, and confirmed that planned enhancements include identifying the flammable gas shut-off valves on the plans.

c. Conclusions

The licensee's pre-fire plans accurately depict field conditions, and were suitable for their intended purpose.

6. Management Meetings

The inspector met with licensee management and staff throughout the inspection to discuss the status of various safety-related issues and their resolution. The results of the inspection were discussed with licensee management at an exit meeting on June 10, 2004. Licensee management acknowledged the results of the inspection. No proprietary information was discussed during the inspection.

7. Items Opened, Closed, and Discussed

None

8. Partial List of Persons Contacted

Licensee

*C. Aguilar, Manager, Uranium Recycle and Recovery System
 D. Cauley, Operations
 T. Collins, Maintenance
 P. Deneal, Operations
 *M. Fecteau, Plant Manger
 *R. Fischer, Senior Engineer, Regulatory Engineering and Operations
 C. Gantt, Operations
 *D. Graham, Technician, Environment, Health and Safety
 T. Gregg, Incinerator Supervisor
 *J. Heath, Manager, Integrated Safety Engineering
 *M. Lindler, Environment, Health and Safety
 *S. McDonald, Manager, Environment, Health and Safety
 *J. Nickl, Environment, Health and Safety

N. Parr, Licensing, Environment, Health and Safety
T. Shannon, Operations Manager, Environment, Health and Safety
T. Wells, Operations
J. Woodwyck, Respirator Test Facility

Other licensee employees contacted included engineers, technicians, production staff, security, and office personnel.

ABS Consulting

B. Hayes, Fire Protection Consultant

Pinnacle Fire Systems

M. Allison, Service Technician

* Denotes those present at the exit meeting on June 10, 2004

9. Inspection Procedure Used

IP 88055 Fire Protection