

July 21, 2004

Mr. Frederick P. Schiffley, II
Chairman, Westinghouse Owners Group
Exelon Nuclear
Engineering Design
Cornerstone II at Cantera
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, Illinois 60555

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LETTER WOG-04-224 REGARDING NRC SCHEDULE FOR
DEVELOPMENT OF PASSIVE SYSTEM LOCA FREQUENCIES FOR RISK-
INFORMED REVISION OF 10 CFR 50.46

Dear Mr. Schiffley:

Thank you for the letter of May 4, 2004, in which you expressed concerns associated with schedule for the development of the risk-informed revision of 10 CFR 50.46.

As directed by the Commission, the staff is working to prepare a proposed rule by December 2004. In developing the supporting technical basis for the revision, we are considering draft outputs from the expert elicitation process. Final expert elicitation results are scheduled to be completed by December 2004.

As you are aware, we are also working with the industry and other stakeholders to resolve GSI-191, "Pressurized Water Reactor Sump Performance." Given the importance of GSI-191 and the need for timely resolution, we have not waited for final results of the elicitation process. Rather, we are developing a risk-informed alternative to address the sump blockage issues based on insights from the expert elicitation that is consistent with the approach we are using to support development of risk-informed revision to 10 CFR 50.46. This risk-informed alternative will be available as part of the methodology that will be endorsed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for use by licensees in accordance with previously published schedules.

Please direct any questions or comments you may have regarding this information to Michael Johnson at 301-415-3226.

Sincerely,

J. E. Dyer, Director **//RAI//**
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: G. Bischoff, WOG
R. Muench, Wolf Creek, WOG EMG Chairman
G. Overbeck, APS, WOG EMG Vice-Chairman
A. Pietrangelo, NEI

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Distribution for Letter to Frederick Schiffley from J. E. Dyer dated July 21, 2004.

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