

October 6, 2004

Mr. Gordon Bischoff  
Manager, Owners Group Program Management Office  
Westinghouse Electric Company  
Mail Stop ECE 5-16  
P.O. Box 355  
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

Dear Mr. Bischoff:

I am responding to your August 10, 2004, letter in which the Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) requested a fee waiver under 10 CFR 170.11 for WCAP-14572, Revision 1-NP-A, Supplement 2, "Westinghouse Owners Group Application of Risk-Informed Methods to Piping Inservice Inspection Topical Report Clarifications." For the reasons stated below, I am denying a fee waiver for the above submittal in accordance with the applicable provisions of 10 CFR 170.11.

In your letter, WOG asserts that licensing review fees for this Supplement should be waived pursuant to the provisions of 170.11(a)(1)(iii), ". . . as a means of exchanging information between industry organizations and the NRC for the specific purpose of supporting the NRC's generic regulatory improvements or efforts." The letter further states that this Supplement will provide three clarification items: (1) methods for estimating the failure probability of multiple pipe size segments; (2) additional guidance for categorizing a pipe segment as Low Safety Significant (LSS) that was quantitatively categorized as High Safety Significant (HSS); and (3) an update to WCAP-14572, Revision 1-NP-A, Table 4.1-1, which identifies the requirements for HSS piping structural elements selected for inspection. In a May 14, 2003, meeting between NRC technical staff and WOG, Items 1 and 2 were specifically discussed.

During this May 14, 2003, meeting the NRC technical staff informed WOG that the majority of the Supplement addresses Item 1, the deviation from the approved WCAP-14572 methodology; therefore, the majority of the review effort would be focused on this issue. Furthermore, the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) staff found that since licensees could utilize the approved methodology presented in the February 1999 WCAP-14572, the approval of the deviation was not necessary to support the NRC's generic regulatory improvements (i.e., the Probabilistic Risk Assessment policy statement [60FR42622]). Additionally, Items 2 and 3 would simplify the review and approval of certain Risk-Informed Inservice Inspection (RI-ISI) submittals that use the WCAP-14572 methodology, but would not support all RI-ISI submittals.

Consequently, based upon the above discussion, although information is being exchanged between industry and NRR's technical staff, 10 CFR 170.11(a)(1)(iii) does not apply because the NRC has no intent to use this information for the specific purpose of supporting its generic regulatory efforts.

G. Bischoff

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Renu Suri of my staff at 301-415-0161.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

Jesse L. Funches  
Chief Financial Officer

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Renu Suri of my staff at 301-415-0161.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Jesse L. Funches  
Chief Financial Officer

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