

December 23, 2005

APPLICANT: PEBBLE BED MODULAR REACTOR (PTY) LTD.

PROJECT: PEBBLE BED MODULAR REACTOR PRE-APPLICATION REVIEW

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 12, 2005, MEETING WITH PEBBLE BED MODULAR REACTOR (PTY) LTD. REGARDING PLANNING FOR PEBBLE BED MODULAR REACTOR PRE-APPLICATION REVIEW

On December 12, 2005, a public meeting was held between the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and representatives of Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (Pty) Ltd. (PBMR) to discuss a proposed plan for a pre-application review of the PBMR. The staff was provided with PBMR's proposed plan by letter dated December 8, 2005 (ML053420601). The attendance list for the meeting is shown as Enclosure 1. The agenda is shown as Enclosure 2.

This was the third in a series of meetings for the purpose of planning for a pre-application process. The first meeting was held on June 30, 2005; that meeting summary is available at ML052010504. The second was held on September 21 and 22, 2005, and the meeting summary is available at ML052770593.

PBMR described in detail the elements of a plan to engage the NRC staff in a series of discussions and document reviews extending from February 2006 to June 2007. The discussions would begin with two familiarization sessions, each requiring multiple days. These familiarization sessions would seek to inform the staff on the design of a pilot pebble-bed reactor expected to be constructed in South Africa. A document will be submitted to the staff ahead of the familiarization sessions which will be the basis for the presentations at the sessions. That document is expected to be proprietary.

PBMR proposed that starting in May 2006, a series of nineteen white papers would be submitted for staff review. It was stated that the white papers would range from 50 to 200 pages in length. PBMR is requesting that each white paper submittal be followed with a workshop during which staff would be able to obtain explanations and clarifications on the material. Such a workshop would be followed by a request for additional information (RAI) from the staff. A second workshop would be held after PBMR has developed the needed information and would provide the forum for discussion of the questions posed by the staff. Subsequently, a revised white paper would be submitted. A documented response is requested from the NRC staff on the revised white paper. PBMR has prioritized the importance they attach to the content of the white papers as A, B, or C, with A having the highest priority. There are 14 A priority white papers, 4 with B priority, and one with C priority.

In addition to the white papers, a document called the design certification application specification will be submitted that provides the format and content structure for the design certification application (DCA). The existing guidance for such a structure applies primarily to light water reactors. PBMR expects to submit a DCA in early 2008.

The staff provided PBMR with information regarding current priorities and resource constraints faced by the NRC. NRC is assigning the highest priority to those DCAs that have a domestic partner with whom a combined license application is expected. At this time, PBMR does not have a domestic partner. The resources budgeted by NRC for FY 2006 and 2007 currently includes only limited manpower for PBMR pre-application review. Although PBMR has requested a response to their plan by January 13, 2006, the staff informed them that more time will be needed to develop a response. PBMR requested that, even if a quick comprehensive response is not possible, some feedback be provided regarding conduct of the familiarization sessions beginning at the end of February 2006.

Please direct inquiries regarding this meeting to N. Prasad Kadambi at 301-415-5896, or npk@nrc.gov.

/RA/

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Project No. 732

Enclosures: As stated

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DATE	12/21/05*		12/22/05*		12/23/05*	

NRC/PBMR PUBLIC MEETING
 MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2005, 2:00 P.M – 4:00 P.M.
 ATTENDANCE

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Agenda for Public Meeting Regarding PBMR Pre-Application Plans
December 12, 2005

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Lead by:</u>
2:00 p.m.	Opening Remarks	NRC/PBMR (Pty) Ltd.
2:15 p.m.	Description of PBMR pre-application plans	PBMR (Pty) Ltd.
3:15 p.m.	Description of NRC priorities and constraints	NRC
3:45 p.m.	Opportunity for Public Comment	All
4:00 p.m.	Concluding remarks	NRC/PBMR (Pty) Ltd

NOTE: **Specific topics and associated discussion times may change without notice.**

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