

February 24, 2006

Gordon Bischoff
Program Manager
Westinghouse Owners Group
Westinghouse Electric Company
Nuclear Services
P.O.Box 355
Pittsburgh Pennsylvania 15230

Dear Mr. Bischoff,

I would like to request that the Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) provide the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) with the information from the plant surveys conducted in the fall of 2005 to support the WOG-sponsored program on the evaluation of post-accident chemical effects in containment sump fluids. This program was summarized in a public meeting at the NRC on February 9, 2006 (Enclosure 1). Previously, the WOG provided plant survey information in 2004 to inform the Integrated Chemical Effects Testing (ICET) program that was jointly conducted by the NRC and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) (Enclosure 2).

The 2004 plant survey information was extremely beneficial in developing the ICET test conditions and matrix so that the testing was as representative as possible of then-existing plant conditions for a subset of plants. However, the 2004 plant survey (Enclosure 2) only specifically provided information for seventeen of the sixty-nine Pressurized Water Reactors (PWRs) currently in commercial operation. Additionally, conditions at several PWRs have changed since 2004 as insulation and other containment materials have been eliminated or replaced in preparation for the change in licensing basis stipulated in NRC Generic Letter (GL) 2004-02, "Potential Impact of Debris Blockage on Emergency Recirculation During Design Basis Accidents at Pressurized-Water Reactors." It is my understanding that the 2005 plant survey information is much more comprehensive, contains information from at least sixty-eight of the sixty-nine plants, and accurately describes relevant plant conditions as they existed in the fall of 2005.

The NRC is sponsoring testing at Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) to evaluate the potential for head loss across a surrogate sump screen due to chemical products that were observed during the ICET program. Currently, this program has been relying on the 2004 plant survey information as well as information provided directly by licensees to inform this testing. The NRC's intent is to utilize the WOG 2005 plant survey information to ensure that appropriate test conditions are being evaluated, and that future ANL test results are as representative as possible of existing plant conditions. As in the past, NRC will share results from this testing program with the industry as they become available. Therefore, I believe that the NRC and WOG will mutually benefit from the NRC's use of the 2005 plant survey. The ANL test program is scheduled to be completed in April, 2006 in order to support the GL resolution schedule. Therefore, I request that the plant survey information be provided to the NRC expeditiously, preferably no later than March 6, 2006.

Mr. Bishoff

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Your help fulfilling this request is greatly appreciated. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michele G. Evans, Deputy Director
Engineering Research Application
Division of Fuel, Engineering, and Radiological Research
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Enclosures:

1. "Evaluation of Post-Accident Chemical Effects in Containment Sump Fluids", presented during the Public Meeting with Industry Regarding the PWR Sump Blockage Issue (GSI-191), February 9, 2006 (ADAMS ML060540539).
2. "Test Plan: Characterization of Chemical and Corrosion Effects Potentially Occurring Inside a PWR Containment Following a LOCA, Rev. 13, dated July 20, 2005 (ADAMS ML052100426).

Cc w/e: Mr. Timothy Andreychek
Containment Systems Applications
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Mr. Maurice Dinger
Technical Senior Engineer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, KS 66839

Mr. Bishoff

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