

May 23, 2006

Mr. James A. Gresham, Manager
Regulatory Compliance and Plant Licensing
Westinghouse Electric Company
P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

SUBJECT: NRC STAFF INTERPRETATION OF WCAP-16260-P-A WITH RESPECT TO
TWO PREVIOUSLY APPROVED TOPICAL REPORTS WCAP-8846-A,
WCAP-13749-P-A AND THEIR ASSOCIATED SAFETY EVALUATIONS

Dear Mr. Gresham:

During a recent telephone conference between the NRC staff and Westinghouse staff, Westinghouse discussed with the NRC staff the interpretation of WCAP-16260-P-A with respect to two previously approved topical reports WCAP-8846-A, WCAP-13749-P-A and their associated NRC staff Safety Evaluations (SEs).

By letter dated March 28, 2006 (Reference), Westinghouse submitted to the NRC staff technical justifications in support of Westinghouse's interpretation and continued compliance with the SE requirements of WCAP-8846-A and WCAP-13749-P-A using "The Spatially Corrected Inverse Count Rate (SCICR) Method for Subcritical Reactivity Measurement" testing methodology documented in WCAP-16260-P-A (also referred to as Subcritical Rod Worth Measurement – SRWM). Conditions that are specified in the SEs for WCAP-8846-A and WCAP-13749-P-A were not specifically considered in topical report WCAP-16260-P-A; however, Westinghouse's interpretation is that compliance to these SE requirements is maintained.

Neutronic parameters and characteristics, such as reactivity balance, shutdown margin, and power distributions, were reviewed for compliance with applicability of WCAP-16260-P-A. The NRC staff has reviewed the analysis provided in the Reference and concurs with Westinghouse that the methodology as described in WCAP-16260-P-A, will continue to meet all the regulatory requirements. In addition, the methodology described in topical report WCAP-16260-P-A, provides no contradictions to the methodologies and conditions provided in topical reports WCAP-8846-A and WCAP-13749-P-A. Therefore, the NRC staff concurs with the conclusions provided in the Reference. The NRC staff requires that the Westinghouse clarifications letter with this NRC letter be incorporated in the subject topical reports.

If future changes to the NRC's regulatory requirements affect the acceptability of these topical reports, Westinghouse and/or licensees referencing these reports will be expected to revise the topical reports appropriately, or justify its continued applicability for subsequent referencing.

J. Gresham

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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Girija Shukla at 301-415-8439.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Juan D. Peralta, Acting Chief
Special Projects Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 700

Reference: B.F. Maurer, Acting Manager, Regulatory Compliance and Plant Licensing,
"WCAP-16260-P-A Compliance Interpretation, (Non-Proprietary)," March 28,
2006.

cc:

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

J. Gresham

- 2 -

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