

June 27, 2006

Mr. Edward G. Wallace, Senior General Manager-US Programs
Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (Pty) Ltd.
P.O. Box 9396
Centurion 0046
Republic of South Africa

SUBJECT: NRC REVIEW OF PEBBLE BED MODULAR REACTOR (PBMR) WHITE PAPERS

Dear Mr. Wallace:

This acknowledges receipt of your letter of June 13, 2006 (ML061650400), as well as the e-mail from Mr. Edward Burns on June 16, 2006 (ML061700503). The former enclosed the first PBMR white paper entitled "Probabilistic Risk Assessment Approach for the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor," and the latter provided the schedule for submittal of the next four white papers. As we had noted in our letter of May 25, 2006 (ML061350057), we will consider reviewing the above white paper to the extent that such a review enables the staff to better understand the PBMR safety approach.

From Mr. Burns' e-mail, we conclude that the white paper on licensing basis events selection will be submitted by June 30, 2006, and the next two papers (on structure, systems, and component classification, and defense-in-depth) will be submitted by July 31, 2006. Further, we conclude that the paper on your proposed format and content for the design certification application will be submitted by August 31, 2006. We will establish a review schedule for the above papers based on this submittal schedule, and on available resources and the relative priorities of NRC's work load. The schedule that we develop will only apply to the current set of white papers and will not address the review of any other submittals from PBMR. Please note that any delay in submitting the white papers for review will impact the NRC's schedule and availability of resources for reviewing the documents.

We would like to reiterate that the activities related to the proposed new Part 53 are not directly related to the staff's review of the current set of PBMR white papers. Although it is your choice to take advantage of the Part 53 activities, our planning for white paper reviews and meetings with you will be independent of the schedule for Part 53 activities.

Please contact me at 301-415-5896 should you have further questions.

Sincerely,

N. Prasad Kadambi, Project Manager /RA/
New and Advanced Reactors Branch
Division of Risk Assessment and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Project No. 732

cc: See next page

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