



MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD.

16-5, KONAN 2-CHOME, MINATO-KU
TOKYO, JAPAN

May 12, 2006

Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

ATTENTION: Mr. David B. Matthews, Mail Stop 0-12 E5

Subject: The Intent of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to Pursue Design Certification

By copy of this letter, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI) is notifying the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of its intent to submit the documentation to the NRC necessary to fulfill 10CFR52 requirements for design certification of the plant tentatively called the USAPWR. (The official name of the plant is to be provided later.)

MHI anticipates that the design certification documentation will be sent to the NRC the first quarter of 2008 following a pre-certification period of approximately one and a half years during which time MHI will provide the NRC the USAPWR design and performance information necessary for a thorough regulatory review.

MHI would be ready to begin pre-certification discussions on the USAPWR design in July 2006. It is our plan that during these early discussions MHI will provide the NRC with in-depth information concerning the safety features and analysis methods used in the design of the USAPWR, and to mutually identify technical areas for which detailed reports are required by the NRC to assure the completeness and acceptability of the MHI design certification document submittal in 2008.

The USAPWR Plant is a derivative of the APWR Plant currently under construction regulatory review in Japan to be implemented at the Tsuruga Site. The preparatory construction work for APWR at the Tsuruga Site was started in July 2004. If the NRC is interested in contacting the Japanese nuclear regulatory organization, METI, MHI will gladly support any interactions that are mutually agreed to by the two regulatory bodies.

A key design criterion for the USAPWR has been the utilization of proven technology already in use at operating pressurized water plants in Japan or the United States. MHI has been able to fulfill this design criterion in almost every area of the plant design. In addition, MHI has utilized design and analysis computational methods which are familiar to the NRC from its review of the Westinghouse methodology described in prior licensing submittals. Therefore, MHI believes that this prior review activity, and the willingness of MHI to provide timely documentation in technical areas requested by the NRC as part of the pre-certification process, will minimize the potential for the occurrence of significant issues.

SUNS / review complete
LT Burkhardt

2222
PUBLIC
e-PIES TO
LARRY BURKHART
EXPEDITE

MHI will remain in close contact with the NRC and would appreciate some ideas as to the timing of the first meeting that is acceptable to the NRC. The MHI United States contact individual for the NRC is C. Keith Paulson. Dr. Paulson's contact information is provided below. He will address any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Inoue', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hiroshi Inoue, Executive Officer, Senior Vice President
Nuclear Energy Systems Headquarters
Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd.

C. Keith Paulson Contact Information

C. Keith Paulson, Technical Consultant
Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America, Inc.
4350 Northern Pike, Suite 301
Monroeville, PA 15146
Telephone: (412) 374-4063
E-mail: ckpaulson@aol.com

CC: Yoshinobu Shibata, MHI
Yohei Nishi, MHIA