

September 14, 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: STATUS OF PEBBLE BED MODULAR REACTOR (PBMR) WHITE PAPERS

Dear Mr. Wallace:

This acknowledges receipt of your letter of August 28, 2006 (ML062400070), which enclosed the PBMR white paper entitled "Safety Classification of Structures, Systems, and Components for the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor." 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.

An e-mail from Mr. Edward Burns on June 16, 2006 (ML061700503) had provided a schedule whereby the white papers that NRC has agreed to review would have been received by August 31, 2006. As of the end of August 2006, the status of white papers is that the PRA Approach paper was submitted on June 13, 2006 (ML061650404), the Licensing-Basis Event Selection paper was submitted on July 3, 2006 (ML061930116), and the SSC classification paper was submitted on August 28, 2006 (ML062400070). We have not yet received a revised schedule for the submittal of the papers on Defense-in-Depth, and format and content description.

NRC's intent is to follow an integrated approach to review the set of white papers because of the interdependency of the topics covered. We had indicated to you in our letter of June 27, 2006 (ML061730421) that we would establish a review schedule for the PBMR white papers once we receive and review the scope and content of the papers, and considering the relative priorities of NRC's work load. We also noted 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 look forward to hearing from you regarding your plans for submitting the remaining two white papers. Please contact me at 301-415-5896 should you have further questions.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

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

Project No. 732

cc: See next page

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Letter to Edward G. Wallace from N.P. Kadambi dated:

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