

October 13, 2006

Mr. Gordon Bischoff, Manager  
Owners Group Program Management Office  
Westinghouse Electric Company  
Mail Stop ECE 5-16  
P.O. Box 355  
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

Dear Mr. Bischoff:

I am responding to the Westinghouse Owners Group letter dated January 26, 2006, Letter Number WOG-06-25, received in our office in September 2006. (To expedite NRC's response to a request for a fee waiver in the future, please send your letter to me directly in accordance with 10 CFR §170.5.) This letter included a request for a fee waiver for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) review of the topical report, WCAP-16168-NP, Revision 1, "Risk-Informed Extension of Reactor Vessel In-Service Inspection Interval." Based upon a review of the request, I am unable to grant a fee waiver for the NRC review of this report in accordance with the applicable provisions of 10 CFR §170.11.

The basis for your request for a fee waiver is that the topical report supports generic regulatory improvements. Our regulations in 10 CFR §170.11(a)(1)(iii)(A)(1) and (2) state that this fee exemption applies only when the report has been submitted for the purpose of supporting NRC's development of generic guidance and regulations, and at the time the document is submitted, the NRC plans to use it for that purpose. The NRC currently has no plans to use the submission for the purpose of supporting the agency's generic regulatory efforts. Moreover, based on the summary of the topical report in the letter, the "primary beneficiary" of the NRC's review of this report will be the Westinghouse Owners Group. Based on the reasons noted above, I am denying your request for a fee waiver.

If you have any technical questions regarding this matter, contact Mr. Sean Peters at 301-415-1842. For fee waiver related questions, please contact Ms. Renu Suri of my staff at 301-415-0161.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jesse L. Funches  
Chief Financial Officer

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