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October 30, 2006

Ms. Janice Dunn Lee, Director  
Office of International Programs  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop 04E21  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Ms. Dunn Lee,

IRIS (International Reactor Innovative and Secure) is an advanced light water reactor, being developed by an international team led by Westinghouse Electric Company, and currently in pre-application review with the US NRC. Ten countries are represented in the IRIS team, as they see the IRIS technology as an attractive option to address their future energy needs.

The team has for long been aware that for being successful an international cooperation effort needs harmonization of long-term planning, development and implementation of design, procurement and deployment as well as harmonization of legal and regulatory infrastructure and licensing efforts.

Recent US initiatives by DOE with the GNEP program and by NRC with the Multinational Design Approval/Evaluation Program (MDAP/MDEP) are, to our belief, ideal vehicles to attain our overall objective.

As the lead in the IRIS licensing, and on behalf of the IRIS team, Westinghouse would like to initiate discussions on MDAP/MDEP pre-application review of IRIS. It is our understanding that a similar letter proposing initiation of such MDAP/MDEP collaboration related to IRIS is also being sent to US NRC by the Croatian nuclear safety regulatory body, State Office for Nuclear Safety (SONS); thus, the process would initially be bilateral and include Westinghouse and SONS. It is quite probable that other IRIS countries will subsequently join, thus expanding to a multilateral arrangement.

DOE is supportive of our position. In our discussions with SONS we found them as eager as Westinghouse to be part of this pioneering approach. On a practical side, participation from SONS personnel to the evaluation of the IRIS design during its pre-licensing application and eventually during the FDA could alleviate the pressure on NRC resources.

We hope that you will consider favorably this exploratory request and we are ready to meet with you and your staff at your convenience to discuss how to formally start and implement the MDAP/MDEP process including Westinghouse and SONS. With my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mario D. Carelli'.

Mario D. Carelli, Chief Scientist  
Westinghouse Electric Co. LLC

cc: R. Matzie  
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