

January 8, 2007

Mr. James A. Gresham, Manager  
Regulatory Compliance and Plant Licensing  
Westinghouse Electric Company  
P.O. Box 355  
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION ON THE USE OF CONSERVATIVELY CALCULATED  
CONTAINMENT BACKPRESSURE IN WESTINGHOUSE BOILING WATER  
REACTOR (BWR) EMERGENCY CORE COOLING SYSTEM (ECCS)  
EVALUATION CALCULATIONS

Dear Mr. Gresham:

On October 4, 2006, Westinghouse Electric Company (Westinghouse) submitted to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff a letter requesting clarification on the use of conservatively calculated containment backpressure in Westinghouse BWR ECCS evaluation calculations. By letter dated December 12, 2006, Westinghouse submitted a revised approach which superseded the approach taken in the letter dated October 4, 2006. Provided that the preconditions identified in the December 12, 2006, letter are satisfied, the NRC staff agrees that this approach is acceptable for calculating containment backpressure when using topical report WCAP-16078-P-A, "Westinghouse BWR ECCS Evaluation Model: Supplement 3 to Code Description, Qualification and Application to SVEA-96 Optima 2 Fuel."

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Stacey L. Rosenberg, Chief  
Special Projects Branch  
Division of Policy and Rulemaking  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 700

cc:  
Mr. Gordon Bischoff, Manager  
Owners Group Program Management Office  
Westinghouse Electric Company  
P.O. Box 355  
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

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