

March 6, 2008

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

SUBJECT: DRAFT SAFETY EVALUATION FOR PRESSURIZED WATER REACTOR OWNERS GROUP (PWROG) TOPICAL REPORT (TR) WCAP-16168-NP, REVISION 2, "RISK- INFORMED EXTENSION OF THE REACTOR VESSEL IN-SERVICE INSPECTION INTERVAL" (TAC NO. MC9768)

Dear Mr. Bischoff:

By letter dated January 26, 2006, as supplemented by letter dated June 8, 2006, the PWROG submitted TR WCAP-16168-NP, Revision 1, to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff for review. TR WCAP-16168-NP, Revision 2, and responses to the NRC staff's request for additional information (RAI) on TR WCAP-16168-NP, Revision 1, were submitted for NRC staff review by PWROG letter dated October 16, 2007. Enclosed for PWROG review and comment is a copy of the NRC staff's draft safety evaluation (SE) for the TR.

The NRC staff has accepted TR WCAP-16168-NP, Revision 2, based on the imposition of a condition related to the augmented evaluation of in-service inspection (ISI) results taken from Section (e) of the proposed Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* 50.61a, published in the Federal Register on October 3, 2007 (72 FR 56275). The NRC staff is in the process of reviewing public comments on the proposed rule and preparing the final rule. If the final 10 CFR 50.61a differs from the proposed 10 CFR 50.61a with regard to the augmented ISI evaluation requirements, the PWROG will be expected to review the requirements in the final 10 CFR 50.61a and determine whether a revision to the accepted TR WCAP-16168-NP, Revision 2, is required. The PWROG will be expected to notify the NRC staff, in writing, of the results of its determination within six months of the publication date of the final 10 CFR 50.61a. If, on this basis, a revision to the accepted TR WCAP-16168-NP, Revision 2, is required, the PWROG will be expected to submit the revised TR for NRC staff review within one year of the publication date of the final 10 CFR 50.61a.

Furthermore, licensees that chose to implement the proposed 10 CFR 50.61a must perform the ISI inspections required in Section (e) of the rule, and must submit the required information for review and approval to the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, in accordance with Section (c) of the rule, at least three years before the limiting RT_{PTS} value calculated under 10 CFR 50.61 is projected to exceed the PTS screening criteria in 10 CFR 50.61. Licensees implementing Section (c) of the proposed 10 CFR 50.61a must perform the inspections and analyses required by Section (e) of the proposed 10 CFR 50.61a and may not defer the ISI inspection of the reactor vessel beltline welds.

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Twenty working days are provided to you to comment on any factual errors or clarity concerns contained in the SE. The final SE will be issued after making any necessary changes and will be made publicly available. The NRC staff's disposition of your comments on the draft SE will be discussed in the final SE.

To facilitate the NRC staff's review of your comments, please provide a marked-up copy of the draft SE showing proposed changes and provide a summary table of the proposed changes. If you have any questions, please contact Sean E. Peters at 301-415-1842.

Sincerely,

/RA/.

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

Project No. 694

Enclosure: Draft SE

cc w/encl: See next page

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05/12/06