

May 27, 2009

R.E. Reimels, President
B&W Nuclear Power Generation Group, Inc.
The Babcock & Wilcox Company
800 Main Street
P.O. Box 1180
Lynchburg, VA 24505-1180

SUBJECT: UPCOMING LICENSING ACTIVITIES CONCERNING THE MPOWER
REACTOR DESIGN

Dear Mr. Reimels:

The purpose of this letter is to thank you for your April 28, 2009, letter notifying the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of your intent to submit an application for design certification of the Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) mPower reactor design. As we have discussed in previous interactions with your staff, the information provided will be used to support planning for the Advanced Reactor Program; which not only needs to consider licensing reviews in future fiscal years, but also the development of infrastructure related to new and different reactor technologies.

Further, I wish to inform you of decisions by the NRC regarding review activities for advanced reactor designs during fiscal years (FYs) 2009 and 2010. On July 17, 2008, the NRC released a memo from the staff to the Commission dated July 3, 2008, detailing the criteria for including future small power reactor licensing activities in future budgets of the NRC. A copy of the memo is enclosed, and can also be found in NRC's Agencywide Documents and Management System (ADAMS) under Accession No. ML081980044. The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>. For FYs 2009 and 2010, the NRC staff will need to limit interactions with the designers of small power reactors to occasional meetings or other nonresource-intensive activities. As such, any requested work on the mPower reactor design that goes beyond these limitations will be placed on hold.

R. Reimels

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As discussed with your staff, the NRC will conduct a public meeting this summer with B&W to familiarize the staff with the mPower design. Follow-up meetings on specific technical topics may be conducted, provided the NRC staff can accommodate your requests. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Thomas J. Kenyon at (301) 415-1120.

Sincerely,

/RA/ By Gary M. Holahan Acting For/

Michael R. Johnson, Director
Office of New Reactors

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See attached list

R. Reimels

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OFFICE	PM:NRO/ARP/PTRB	BC:NRO/ARP/PTRB	D:NRO/ARP	D:NRO
NAME	TKenyon	WReckley	MMayfield (WReckley for)	MJohnson (GHolahan for)
DATE	05/21/2009	05/21/2009	05/21/2009	05/27/2009

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