

April 9, 2012

Mr. Scott Head, Manager
Regulatory Affairs
Nuclear Innovation North America, LLC
4000 Avenue F
Bay City, TX 77414

SUBJECT: FINAL SAFETY EVALUATION FOR SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT WCAP-17065-P,
“WESTINGHOUSE ABWR SUBCOMPARTMENT ANALYSIS USING GOTHIC”

Dear Mr. Head:

By letter dated April 29, 2010 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML101250482), South Texas Project (STP) Units 3 and 4 submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff Topical Report (TR) WCAP-17065-P, “Westinghouse ABWR Subcompartment Analysis Using GOTHIC,” as part of a series of advanced boiling-water reactor (ABWR) fuel-related TRs that will support a future license amendment for STP Units 3 and 4. By letter dated August 9, 2011 (ML112160055), an NRC advanced safety evaluation (SE) regarding approval of TR WCAP-17065-P was provided for your review and comments. By an email dated August 31, 2011 (ML120520070), STP commented on the SE. The NRC’s disposition of STP comments on the SE are discussed in Enclosures 3 and 4 to this letter.

The NRC staff has found that TR WCAP-17065-P is acceptable for referencing in licensing applications for STP Units 3 and 4 designed ABWR reactors to the extent specified and under the limitations and conditions delineated in the TR and in the enclosed final SE. The final SE defines the basis for our acceptance of the TR.

Our acceptance applies only to material provided in the subject TR. We do not intend to repeat our review of the acceptable material described in the TR. When the TR appears as a reference in license applications, our review will ensure that the material presented applies to the specific plant involved. License amendment requests that deviate from this TR will be subject to a plant-specific review in accordance with applicable review standards.

In accordance with the guidance provided on the NRC website, we request that Westinghouse publish accepted proprietary and non-proprietary versions of this TR within three months of receipt of this letter. The accepted versions shall incorporate this letter and the enclosed final SE after the title page. Also, they must contain historical review information, including NRC requests for additional information and your responses. The accepted versions shall include an “-A” (designating accepted) following the TR identification symbol.

Document transmitted herewith
contains sensitive unclassified
information. When separated from the
enclosure, this document is
“DECONTROLLED.”

S. Head

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As an alternative to including the requests for additional information (RAIs) and RAI responses behind the title page, if changes to the TR were provided to the NRC staff to support the resolution of RAI responses, and the NRC staff reviewed and approved those changes as described in the RAI responses, there are two ways that the accepted version can capture the RAIs:

1. The RAIs and RAI responses can be included as an Appendix to the accepted version.
2. The RAIs and RAI responses can be captured in the form of a table (inserted after the final SE) which summarizes the changes as shown in the approved version of the TR. The table should reference the specific RAIs and RAI responses which resulted in any changes, as shown in the accepted version of the TR.

If future changes to the NRC's regulatory requirements affect the acceptability of this TR, Westinghouse and/or licensees referencing it will be expected to revise the TR appropriately, or justify its continued applicability for subsequent referencing.

Sincerely,

/RA Frank Akstulewicz for/

David B. Matthews, Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Project No. 0772

Enclosures:

1. Final SE (non-proprietary version)
2. Final SE (proprietary version)
3. Resolution of comments (non-proprietary version)
4. Resolution of comments (proprietary version)

cc w/o encl: See next page

S. Head

- 2 -

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