DOCKET: 70-1151

LICENSEE: WESTINGHOUSE COLUMBIA FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY

SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT - SUBMITTAL DATED JULY 31, 2012, EXTENDION OF COMPLETION DATE FOR THE SECOND NUCLEAR CRITICALITY SAFETY IMPROVMENT PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

By letter dated July 31, 2012, the Westinghouse Electric Company (Westinghouse) Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility (CFFF) submitted a response (Ref. 1) to an inspection report dated May 22, 2012 (Ref. 1). The response discussed intentions to complete the second Nuclear Criticality Safety Improvement Program (NCSIP-II). The closing paragraph of Ref. 1 requests an extension of the completion date that is specified in Safety Condition S-7 of Special Nuclear Materials License SNM-1107.

DISCUSSION

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) staff performed a routine and announced nuclear criticality safety (NCS) inspection of the CFFF from April 23 through 26, 2012. Though no safety concerns were identified, an item associated with passive-engineered controls and designation as a sole items relied on for safety remained open. During the inspection, the NRC staff reviewed selected Criticality Safety Evaluations (CSEs) that had been revised during the NCSIP-II project. The basis for the revisions was unclear. Hence, the item was left open.

The licensee submitted a response to the inspection report as Ref. 1. In that response, the licensee acknowledged that, after further considerations, more than 60 CSEs would be revised. Prior to the amendment request, the NRC staff had been informed during a telephone conversation of staffing issues at the CFFF. Afterwards, given the NCS staffing level, the licensee informed the NRC staff (Ref. 1) that the completion date stated in the S-7 Condition could not be met. The licensee requested an extension of the completion date from January 31, 2013, to December 31, 2014.

The open issue of the inspection report is the manner in which criticality safety is represented in the Integrated Safety Analysis (ISA). The ISA aside, components and systems of the CFFF had been evaluated by established criticality safety methods. The components and systems are in conformance with established criticality safety practices. The NRC staff has determined that no criticality safety issues exist. Instead, the issue is with the manner in which the performance requirements of § 70.61 are met using the ISA.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The NRC staff has determined that the license amendment belongs to a category of actions which the Commission has determined do not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the human environment. The license's change in the completion date of NCSIP-II requested in the amendment application is administrative in nature. Therefore, in accordance with 10 CFR 51.22(c)(11), neither an Environmental Assessment nor an Environmental Impact Statement is required for this action.

CONCLUSION

Components and systems at the CFFF are analyzed with established criticality safety methods, thus, ensuring that criticality safety issues do not result from approval of this amendment request. The NRC staff finds that the change in the completion date of NCSIP-II from January 31, 2013, to December 31, 2014, is acceptable.

REFERENCES

1. Letter (LTR-RAC-12-64) from G. Couture, Westinghouse, "Westinghouse Columbia Plant Inspection Report Response," July 31, 2012. (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System [ADAMS]) Accession Number ML12216A389.

2. U.S. NRC, "Inspection Report No. 70-1151/2012-202", May 22, 2012. ADAMS Accession Number ML121300141.

PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTORS

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