

September 13, 2012

Mr. Yoshiki Ogata, General Manager
APWR Promoting Department
Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.
16-5, Konan 2-Chome, Minato-Ku
Tokyo, 108-8215 JAPAN

SUBJECT: STATUS OF THE REVIEW OF UNITED STATES - ADVANCED
PRESSURIZED WATER REACTOR DESIGN CERTIFICATION
APPLICATION REGARDING SEISMIC AND STRUCTURAL ANALYSES

Dear Mr. Ogata:

In a letter dated August 29, 2012, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. (MHI) informed the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff that MHI has updated its closure plan for the United States - Advanced Pressurized Water Reactor (US-APWR) design certification (DC) application in the area of seismic and structural analyses. MHI explained that the revision was necessary due to recent changes that it decided to make to its design. These changes include integrating the south portion of the essential service water pipe tunnel into the south side of the reactor building complex, increasing the distance between the reactor building complex and the turbine island, increasing the thickness of the reactor building south wall, and making other configuration changes inside the reactor building. MHI's updated closure plan also provides new dates for submitting technical reports and making available supporting calculations and design reports. The NRC staff is evaluating the impact of the new dates on its review schedule and will address any schedule changes in a separate letter.

The latest MHI design changes, described in the August 29, 2012 letter, are further examples of changes that MHI has made to its US-APWR seismic and structural design and analyses that have caused MHI to make revisions to its seismic closure plan, resulting in repeated delays in MHI's technical submittals. MHI has recently changed basic inputs to the seismic and structural analyses, the plant configuration, foundation media, seismic model and analysis, and the time history input. As a result of the repeated changes, Requests for Additional Information related to seismic analysis and structural design have been issued by the staff to extract additional technical information, at times resulting in significant re-analyses and further delays in technical submittals.

The staff expects future submittals by MHI to be of high quality, technically sufficient, and complete. The staff expects the submittals to reflect an integrated design approach, which consists of the use of consistent design inputs, assumptions, and methodologies for all design basis seismic and structural analyses and the consideration of all potential interactions with adjacent structures in the design and analyses of Seismic Category I and II structures. In light of the problems highlighted above the staff will perform an acceptance review of future submittals to ensure they are of sufficient quality and provide complete technical information prior to continuing the safety review of MHI's seismic and structural analyses.

Y. Ogata

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We request that MHI meet with us to explain how MHI plans to manage its seismic and structural design going forward.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the lead project manager, Jeffrey Ciocco at 301-415-6391, or via e-mail at Jeff.Ciocco@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No. 51-021

cc: See next page

Y. Ogata

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(Revised 08/14/2012)

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