

October 7, 2013

Jack Stringfellow, PWROG  
PWR Owners Group, Program Management Office  
Westinghouse Electric Company LLC  
1000 Westinghouse Drive, Suite 380  
Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania 16066

Dear Mr. Stringfellow:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has considered your request to endorse the Westinghouse report entitled "Westinghouse Response to NRC Generic Request for Additional Information (RAI) on CENTS Code in Support of the Pressurized Water reactor Owners Group (PWROG)" (withheld from public disclosure for proprietary reasons), dated September 25, 2013.

The NRC is evaluating the licensees' mitigation strategies, and providing a written interim staff evaluation for each affected licensee in February, 2014, to provide regulatory certainty to industry with respect to whether their proposed actions provide a reasonable path for compliance with NRC Order EA-12-049, "Issuance of Order to Modify Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Event," dated March 12, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12054A735). An important aspect of the evaluations is to determine whether or not the licensees' determination of the overall sequence of events, timing of those events, and phenomena affecting those events, appear reasonable. Information on the Combustion Engineering Nuclear Transient Simulation (CENTS) computer code used in the analyses for an extended loss of alternating current power (ELAP) event was submitted for the NRC review. The CENTS computer code is used in the ELAP analysis for Combustion Engineering (CE) plants to show that during an ELAP, the mitigation strategies that are based on the ELAP analysis can provide reasonable assurance that core uncover and re-criticality will not occur.

The NRC has reviewed the information submitted to date and concluded that use of the industry approach, reference above, dated September 25, 2013, is acceptable for use in the ELAP analysis with the following limitation:

- The use of CENTS in the ELAP analysis for CE plants is limited to the flow conditions prior to reflux boiling initiation.

Individual licensees should inform the NRC of their plans to abide by this generic resolution, and their plans to address potential plant specific issues associated with implementing this resolution that are identified during the audit process. Licensees are strongly encouraged to follow the guidance in the Westinghouse report "Westinghouse Response to NRC Generic Request for Additional Information (RAI) on CENTS Code in Support of the Pressurized Water reactor Owners Group (PWROG)" (withheld from public disclosure for proprietary reasons), in order to improve efficiency of the NRC's review and avoid further requests for information.

J. Stringfellow

-2-

If a licensee deviates from the guidance, the licensee should justify the deviations and provide information that demonstrates that mitigating strategies can be performed in all modes of operations, including shutdown and refueling modes.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Sheena Whaley, of my staff, at (301) 415-0213, or via email to sheena.whaley@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Jack R. Davis, Director  
Mitigating Strategies Directorate  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Cc: Mr. Joseph E. Pollock, Vice President  
Nuclear Operations  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
1201 F Street NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20004

J. Stringfellow

-2-

If a licensee deviates from the guidance, the licensee should justify the deviations and provide information that demonstrates that mitigating strategies can be performed in all modes of operations, including shutdown and refueling modes.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Sheena Whaley, of my staff, at (301) 415-0213, or via email to sheena.whaley@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Jack R. Davis, Director  
Mitigating Strategies Directorate  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Cc: Mr. Joseph E. Pollock, Vice President  
Nuclear Operations  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
1201 F Street NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20004

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC	SBailey	SWhaley
MSDP R/F	EBowman	JBowen
RidsNRRLASLent Resource	JDavis	JKratchman

**ADAMS Accession No.:** ML13276A555

\*via email

<b>OFFICE</b>	NRR/MSPB*	NRR/MSPB	NRR/MSD	NRR/MESB*	NRR/MSD
<b>NAME</b>	JKratchman	SLent	EBowman	SWhaley	JDavis
<b>DATE</b>	10/03/13	10/03/13	10/03/13	10/04/13	10/07/13

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**