

May 5, 2014

Mr. James A. Gresham, Manager
Regulatory Compliance and Plant Licensing
Westinghouse Electric Company
1000 Westinghouse Drive
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE FOR REVIEW OF WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC COMPANY
[WESTINGHOUSE] TOPICAL REPORT WCAP-17642-P, REVISION 0, AND
WCAP-17642-NP, REVISION 0, "WESTINGHOUSE PERFORMANCE
ANALYSIS AND DESIGN MODEL (PAD5)," (TAC NO. MF3096)

Dear Mr. Gresham:

By letter dated October 29, 2013, Westinghouse submitted for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review Topical Report (TR) WCAP-17642-P, Revision 0, and WCAP-17642-NP, Revision 0, "Westinghouse Performance Analysis and Design Model (PAD5)," (Proprietary/Non-Proprietary). The NRC staff has performed an acceptance review of the WCAP-17642-P, Revision 0, and WCAP-17642-NP, Revision 0. We have found that the material presented is sufficient to begin our review. However, the NRC staff will be issuing an initial request for additional information on two issues that were identified during the acceptance review. They are (1) need for clarity in the separation of the database used to derive the thermal conductivity degradation correlation, and for validation and calibration of the correlation, and (2) the nature of the model and methods improvement process.

In the submitted TR Westinghouse requested licensing of PAD5 up to a rod average burnup of 70 GWd/MTU for Optimized ZIRLO clad fuel. This is an extension of currently approved burnup for Optimized ZIRLO clad fuel. Since NRC has an increased concern with high burnup fuel, the NRC staff will not be reviewing the portion of the request to increase burnup to 70 GWd/MTU during the WCAP-17642-P, Revision 0, and WCAP-17642-NP, Revision 0, TR review. This action is consistent with the NRC staff's position with other fuel vendors.

We expect to issue our initial request for additional information by June 15, 2014 and issue its draft safety evaluation by August 31, 2015. This schedule information takes in consideration the NRC's current review priorities and available technical resources and may be subject to change. If modifications to these dates are deemed necessary, we will provide appropriate updates to this information. The NRC staff estimates that the review will require approximately 2350 staff hours including contractor hours and project management time. The review schedule milestones and estimated review costs were discussed and agreed upon in a telephone conference between Tom Rodack, Director, Fuel Engineering Licensing, Westinghouse, and the NRC staff on April 22, 2014.

J. Gresham

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Section 170.21 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* requires that TRs are subject to fees based on the full cost of the review. You did not request a fee waiver; therefore, NRC staff hours will be billed accordingly.

As with all topical reports, the SE will be reviewed by the NRC's Office of the General Counsel (OGC) to determine whether it falls within the scope of the Congressional Review Act (CRA). During the course of this review, OGC considers whether any endorsement or acceptance of a TR by the NRC amounts to a rule as defined in the CRA. If this initial review concludes that the SE, with its accompanying TR, may be a rule, the NRC will forward the package to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for further review and consideration. Any review by OMB would impact the schedule for the final issuance of the SE.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Ekaterina Lenning at (301) 415-3151.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony J. Mendiola, Chief
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 700

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