



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

October 20, 2016

EA-16-173

Mr. Bruce Phillips
Interim Vice President
Columbia Fuel Operations
Westinghouse Electric Company
5801 Bluff Road
Hopkins, SC 29061

**SUBJECT: WESTINGHOUSE COLUMBIA FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY AUTHORIZATION
TO RESTART CONVERSION PROCESS EQUIPMENT AND S-1030 SCRUBBER
SYSTEM - DOCKET NO. 70-1151**

Dear Mr. Phillips:

On August 11, 2016, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) (ML16224B082) to confirm commitments by Westinghouse to take certain actions prior to restarting the S-1030 scrubber system and conversion process equipment at the Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility (CFFF) in Columbia, SC. The actions documented in the CAL were intended to ensure that the root causes of the event which occurred in May 2016, in the S-1030 scrubber were adequately evaluated, and that appropriate corrective actions were implemented before resumption of operations. The actions were determined to be necessary to provide reasonable assurance of Westinghouse's ability to safely operate the CFFF.

By letter dated October 19, 2016 (ML16293A175), Westinghouse requested to restart conversion area process equipment and the S-1030 scrubber system. In your letter, you state that Westinghouse has completed CAL items (1) through (4), that all specified restart activities have been completed, and that any compensatory measures instituted as part of those CAL items will remain in place until the required permanent corrective actions are completed. You also included four commitments to keep the NRC informed of specific activities related to future inspections and cleanouts of the S-1030 scrubber, and revisions to the associated items relied on for safety (IROFS) cleanout frequencies. Additionally, it is our understanding that Westinghouse will promptly advise us when S-1030 scrubber inspection results and technical justifications are made available for NRC inspection and inform the NRC of any unexpected inspection results.

On September 7, 2016, the NRC commenced inspection of the actions committed to in the CAL. The team conducted inspections of those CAL items designated as actions required prior to restart. On October 19, 2016, the NRC completed its inspection of those CAL items and conducted an exit meeting with you and members of your staff. The results of these inspections will be made available within 30 days, in inspection report number 70-1151/2016-008. Based

upon the results of those NRC inspections, and the additional commitments referenced in your request to restart letter, the NRC has no concerns with your plans to restart the referenced equipment.

Therefore, pursuant to the terms of the CAL, I am providing written consent for restart of conversion process equipment and the S-1030 scrubber system as referenced in your letter of October 19, 2016. This letter is not intended to reflect or suggest that the CAL is closed. Additional NRC inspections will continue until all remaining CAL items are completed.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Eric Michel, Chief, Projects Branch 2, at 404-997-4555.

Sincerely,

/RA/ L. Wert for

Catherine Haney
Regional Administrator

Docket No. 70-1151
License No. SNM-124

cc: (See page 3)

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cc: (See page 3)

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ADAMS: Yes ACCESSION NUMBER:ML16294A296 SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE FORM 665 ATTACHED

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SIGNATURE	/RA/	/RA/	/RA/	/RA/			
NAME	EMichel	CEvans	MLesser	LWert			
DATE	10/20/2016	10/20/2016	10/20/2016	1-/20/2016			
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO			

cc:

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Letter to Mr. Bruce Phillips from Catherine Haney dated October 20, 2016

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