

January 25, 2017

NOTE TO: File

FROM: Christopher Ryder, Project Manager  
Fuel Manufacturing Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards,  
and Environmental Review  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

SUBJECT: WESTINGHOUSE APPLICATION FOR A 40-YEAR RENEWAL OF LICENSE  
SNM-1107: EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND TO REQUEST FOR  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following people participated in the conference call:

<u>NRC</u>	<u>Westinghouse</u>
Robert Johnson <sup>(a)</sup>	Nancy Parr <sup>(d)</sup>
Stephen Vaughn <sup>(b)</sup>	
Christopher Ryder <sup>(c)</sup>	

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- a. Chief, Fuel Manufacturing Branch, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards, and Environmental Review, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.
  - b. Reliability and Risk Analyst, Programmatic Oversight and Regional Support Branch, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards, and Environmental Review, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.
  - c. Licensing Project Manager, Fuel Manufacturing Branch, Division of Fuel Cycle Safety, Safeguards, and Environmental Review, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.
  - d. Licensing Manager, Westinghouse

#### DATE AND TIME

Monday, December 12, 2016, at 9:30 AM (eastern)

#### BACKGROUND

The Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC (Westinghouse) submitted an application to renew special nuclear materials (SNM) license SNM-1107 by letter dated December 17, 2014 (Ref. 1). Westinghouse responded to requests for additional information (RAIs) from the staff at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff as indicated in Table 1.

In May 2016, at the Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility (CFFF), Westinghouse found an accumulation of SNM in the main air scrubber taking exhausts from the conversion area, where UF<sub>6</sub> is converted to UO<sub>2</sub>. An Augmented Inspection Team (Refs. 8 and 9) was sent to the CFFF. Operations in the conversion area were terminated while Westinghouse modified the air scrubber. The NRC staff issued a Confirmatory Action letter (CAL) dated August 11, 2016 (Ref. 10).

Table 1.

Topic	RAIs	Due Date	Response
Management measures	May 18, 2016 (Ref. 2)	July 29, 2016 <sup>a</sup>	July 29, 2016 (Ref. 5)
Remaining topics <sup>b</sup>	June 23, 2016 (Ref. 3)	July 23, 2016	August 31, 2016 (Ref. 6) <sup>c</sup>
NCS and May 2016 event	November 23, 2016 (Ref. 4)	December 23, 2016	—

- a. Revised from June 18, 2016 (Ref. 7)
- b. Except for management measures and nuclear criticality safety (NCS)
- c. Responded to 35 RAIs. Did not respond to 42 RAIs.

## DISCUSSION<sup>1</sup>

The NRC staff issued RAIs by letter dated November 23, 2016 (Ref. 4). After the May 2016 event, the NRC staff became aware that RAIs 39 through 50 are related to the items that Westinghouse is addressing in response to the CAL action items. The response from Westinghouse to the CAL action items may address RAIs 39 through 60.

The NRC staff considers the safe operation of the CFFF of paramount importance, followed by addressing the CAL. To effectively use resources at both Westinghouse and the NRC, the NRC stated that Westinghouse can delay responding to the RAIs until such time as the CAL is addressed. This would avoid Westinghouse having to revise RAI responses, should changes be necessary as a result of responding to the CAL action items.

Westinghouse has addressed 35 of the RAIs of the letter dated June 23, 2016 (Ref. 3); 42 RAIs have not been answered (Rev. 6). They have yet to respond to the RAIs dated November 23, 2016 (Ref. 4). Westinghouse intends to have contractors assist in responding to the remaining RAIs. Nonetheless, Westinghouse will postpone addressing RAIs 39 through 50 of the November 2016 letter until the CAL is completed.

Westinghouse intends to review the license application to determine if changes are necessary as a result of the May 2016 event and the CAL in responding to all of the RAIs. Before formally submitting the responses to the RAIs and the revisions to the license application, Westinghouse intends to discuss with the NRC staff if the changes would meet their expectations.

## CLOSING REMARKS

This note serves to relieve Westinghouse of responding to the RAIs as stated in References 3 and 4, until the CAL action items are addressed. When the CAL action items are addressed, the schedule for completing the responses to the RAIs can be determined by the NRC and Westinghouse.

## REFERENCES

1. Letter from N. Parr, Westinghouse Electric Company, "SNM-1107 License Renewal Supplement", December 17, 2014. ADAMS accession number ML14352A111.

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<sup>1</sup> The statements made during the subject conference call are taken by both the NRC staff and Westinghouse to be intentions, not binding commitments.

2. Letter from C. Ryder, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Request For Additional Information: Management Measures Of The Renewal Of Special Nuclear Materials License SNM-1107 (Cost Accounting Control Number L33317)", May 18, 2016. ADAMS accession number ML16125A383.
3. Letter from C. Ryder, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Request For Additional Information: Renewal Of Special Nuclear Materials License SNM-1107 (Cost Activity Code: L33317)", June 23, 2016. ADAMS accession number ML16141A734.
4. Letter to N. Parr, Westinghouse Electric Company LLC, "Request For Additional Information: Renewal Of Special Nuclear Materials License SNM-1107", November 23, 2016. ADAMS accession number ML16300A159.
5. Letter from N. Parr, Westinghouse Electric Company LLC, "Westinghouse Renewal Application Management Measures Response To Request For Additional Information (Cost Accounting Code Number L33337)", July 29, 2016. ADAMS accession number ML16215A005.
6. Letter from N. Parr, Westinghouse Electric Company LLC, "Westinghouse License Renewal Application Response To Request For Additional Information (Cost Activity Code: L33337)", August 31, 2016. ADAMS accession number ML16246A300.
7. E-mail from N. Parr, Westinghouse Electric Company LLC, to C. Ryder, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission dated June 4, 2016; E-mail from C. Ryder U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to N. Parr, Westinghouse Electric Company LLC, June 21, 2016. ADAMS accession number ML16173A340.
8. Catherine Haney, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to O. López-Santiago, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Augmented Inspection Team Charter For Westinghouse Electric Company, Docket No. 70-1151 (Inspection Report 70-1151/2016-007)", July 28, 2016. ADAMS accession number ML16211A001.
9. Letter to B. Phillips, Westinghouse Electric Company LLC, "Nuclear Regulatory Commission Augmented Inspection Team Report No. 70-1151/2016-007", October 26, 2016. ADAMS accession number ML16301A001.
10. Letter to B. Phillips, Westinghouse Electric Company LLC, "Confirmatory Action Letter – Westinghouse Electric Company, Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility", August 11, 2016. ADAMS accession number ML16224B082.