



OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 27, 2017

Mr. Jack Stringfellow
Chief Operating Officer and Chairman
PWR Owners Group
1000 Westinghouse Drive
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

Dear Mr. Stringfellow:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your May 24, 2017, letter requesting a fee waiver under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 170.11(a)(1)(ii) for the submission of your topical report for review and approval of PWROG-16043-P, Revision 2, "PWROG Program to Address NRC Information Notice 2012-09: "Irradiation Effects on Fuel Assembly Spacer Grid Crush Strength" for Westinghouse and CE PWR Fuel Designs," dated January 2017.

The NRC has established regulations for the granting of fee exemptions under 10 CFR 170.11, "Exemptions," which licensees may apply for, in accordance with 10 CFR 170.5, "Communications." The NRC staff has reviewed your request based on the following regulations, 10 CFR 170.11(a)(1)(ii) and 10 CFR 170.11(a)(13):

10 CFR 170.11(a) No application fees, license fees, renewal fees, inspection fees, or special project fees shall be required for: (1) A special project that is a request/report submitted to the NRC— . . . (ii) When the NRC, at the time the request/report is submitted, plans to use the information in response to an NRC request from the Office Director level or above to resolve an identified safety, safeguards, or environmental issue, or to assist the NRC in generic regulatory improvements or efforts (e.g. rules, regulatory guides, regulations, policy statements, generic letters, or bulletins).

10 CFR 170.11(a)(13) All fee exemption requests must be submitted in writing to the Chief Financial Officer in accordance with § 170.5,¹ and the Chief Financial Officer will grant or deny such requests in writing.

The PWROG-16043-P, Revision 2 report presents a Westinghouse-specific methodology for addressing irradiation effects on fuel mechanical seismic/loss of coolant accident design analyses. The PWROG-16043-P, Revision 2 report is Westinghouse proprietary, which highlights that it is not a generic industry response to a NRC request. The PWROG-16043-P, Revision 2 is an alternate method to meet the issues identified within Information Notice 2012-09 and is under staff review.

¹ 10 CFR 170.5 provides that "All communications concerning the regulations in this part should be addressed to the NRC's Chief Financial Officer, either by mail to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; by hand delivery to the NRC's offices at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland; or, where practicable, by electronic submission, for example, via Electronic Information Exchange, or CD-ROM."

As a result, the NRC believes that the paper does not satisfy this criterion. The NRC staff concludes that paper entitled, PWROG-16043-P, Revision 2, "PWROG Program to Address NRC Information Notice 2012-09: "Irradiation Effects on Fuel Assembly Spacer Grid Crush Strength" for Westinghouse and CE PWR Fuel Designs," dated January 2017, does not meet all criteria under 10 CFR 170.11(a)(1)(ii); therefore, the fee waiver request is denied. If you have any technical questions regarding this matter, please contact, Mr. Paul Clifford at 301-415-4043. Please contact Mr. William Blaney, of my staff, at 301-415-5092, for any fee-related questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Maureen E. Wylie
Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: LETTER TO JACK STRINGFELLOW, PWROG OWNERS GROUP RE:
 SUBMISSION OF TOPICAL REPORT FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PWROG-16043-P,
 REVISION 2, dated July 27, 2017

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