



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

June 28, 2018

Mr. W. Anthony Nowinowski  
Program Manager  
PWR Owners Group, Program  
Management Office  
Westinghouse Electric Company  
1000 Westinghouse Drive, Suite 380  
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE FOR REVIEW OF THE PRESSURIZED WATER REACTOR OWNERS GROUP TOPICAL REPORT PWROG-17031-NP, REVISION 1, "UPDATE FOR SUBSEQUENT LICENSE RENEWAL: WCAP-15338-A, A REVIEW OF CRACKING ASSOCIATED WITH WELD DEPOSITED CLADDING IN OPERATING PWR PLANTS"

Dear Mr. Nowinowski:

By letter dated May 31, 2018 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML18164A025), the Pressurized Water Reactor Owners Group (PWROG) submitted Topical Report (TR) PWROG-17031-NP, Revision 1, "Update for Subsequent License Renewal: WCAP-15338-A, "A Review of Cracking Associated with Weld Deposited Cladding in Operating PWR Plants," to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff for review.

The NRC staff has found that the material presented is sufficient to begin our review. The NRC staff expects to issue its request for additional information by October 31, 2018, and issue its draft safety evaluation (SE) in February 15, 2019. 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 350 staff hours including project management time. The review schedule milestones and estimated review costs were discussed and agreed upon via phone between Chad Holderbaum, Program Director, PWROG, and the NRC staff on June 27, 2018. 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.

As with all TRs, 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 issuance of the final SE.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Brian Benney at (301) 415-2767.

Sincerely,

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Dennis Morey, Chief  
Licensing Processes Branch  
Division of Licensing Projects  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 99902037

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**NRR-106**

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