



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555-0001

March 7, 1994

Docket No. 52-003

Mr. Nicholas J. Liparulo
Nuclear Safety and Regulatory Activities
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230

Dear Mr. Liparulo:

SUBJECT: EFFECT OF TESTING PROGRAM ON THE DRAFT SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT FOR THE AP600

In the letter to you dated August 30, 1993, we indicated that the staff was considering issuing the draft safety evaluation report (DSER) in two stages: the first portion in May 1994, and the second portion after the staff had the opportunity to review test results from the AP600 test program and the final information submitted to address the issue of regulatory treatment of non-safety-related systems.

Based on information received after August 1993, and recent discussions with your staff, we have now concluded that the best application of both the NRC's and Westinghouse's resources would occur if the first DSER were issued after May 1994. In addition, the second DSER would be issued after completion of Westinghouse's AP600 testing program and submittal of the related test results. This conclusion is driven by several factors, including additional schedule slippages of the AP600 testing program (4-7 months), development of changes to the AP600 design, and consideration of the status of the staff's development of requests for additional information. In addition, during a recent meeting with your staff, we were informed that the final analyses and code efforts resulting from the completed test program for the passive containment cooling system will not be supplied by Westinghouse until May 1995. This represents approximately a one-year slip in the expected delivery of these analysis reports.

Therefore, the staff's review of the standard safety analysis report of those technical areas that are affected by the testing program will be limited during the development of the first DSER. The results of this limited review will be reflected in open issues in related sections of the DSER (principally portions of Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 15). The second DSER will provide the staff's evaluation of these technical areas.

During the December 1993, senior management meeting, Westinghouse indicated that they would submit a detailed schedule identifying significant testing milestones. The staff requires that this information be submitted formally in order for it to develop its revised review schedule for the AP600. The staff will use that information for input while developing its revised review schedule for the AP600 application.

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Mr. Nicholas J. Liparulo

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The staff will work with Westinghouse to ensure that adequate interim information on the results of the testing programs and code development is submitted so that the staff's review efforts can continue and the staff's evaluation of the testing program can be appropriately reflected in the DSERs. It remains the intent of the staff to conduct its review and issue its safety evaluation reports in a timely and efficient manner. However, the staff must have reasonable assurance that the review will not need to be redone because of future testing, testing analyses, or design changes resulting from testing. If you have any questions regarding this matter, you can contact the project manager, Thomas J. Kenyon, at (301) 504-1120.

Sincerely,

Original signed copy

Dennis M. Crutchfield
Associate Director for Advanced Reactors
and License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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Mr. Nicholas J. Liparulo
Westinghouse Electric Corporation

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AP600

cc: Mr. B. A. McIntyre
Advanced Plant Safety & Licensing
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Energy Systems Business Unit
P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230

Mr. Raymond N. Ng, Manager
Technical Division
Nuclear Management and
Resources Council
1776 Eye Street, N.W.
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20006-3706

Mr. John C. Butler
Advanced Plant Safety & Licensing
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Energy Systems Business Unit
Box 355
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230

Mr. M. D. Beaumont
Nuclear and Advanced Technology Division
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
One Montrose Metro
11921 Rockville Pike
Suite 350
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Mr. Sterling Franks
U.S. Department of Energy
NE-42
Washington, D.C. 20585

Mr. S. M. Modro
EG&G Idaho Inc.
Post Office Box 1625
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83415

Mr. Steve Goldberg
Budget Examiner
725 17th Street, N.W.
Room 8002
Washington, D.C. 20503

Mr. Frank A. Ross
U.S. Department of Energy, NE-42
Office of LWR Safety and Technology
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, Maryland 20874

Mr. Victor G. Snell, Director
Safety and Licensing
AECL Technologies
9210 Corporate Boulevard
Suite 410
Rockville, Maryland 20850