



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555-0001

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Docket 70-1151  
License SNM-1107

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert C. Pierson, Chief  
Licensing Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety  
and Safeguards, NMSS

THRU: Charles W. Emeigh, Chief  
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FROM: Robert E. Wilson  
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SUBJECT: TRIP TO WESTINGHOUSE-COLUMBIA, SC

The agency has a contract (J5024) with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) to review the Westinghouse-Columbia application for license renewal. During February 7-9, 1994, Calvin Hopper, ORNL Task Leader, and Gary Smolen, ORNL, and I visited the Westinghouse facility to tour the plant and discuss plant operations, practices, and programs with the licensee. We were joined by Tom Wenck (Licensing Project Manager) on February 8, 1994. Charlie Sanders, Robert Williams, and Richard Montgomery represented Westinghouse.

At the project kickoff meeting at OWFN the NRC agreed to supply ORNL with recent assessments, inspection reports and amendment applications in addition to the renewal application. Westinghouse supplied the team assessment to the ORNL team during the visit but we need to supply the other documents. As the renewal application was discussed, it became apparent that necessary information was in the emergency plan and the environmental report. The need for relevant bulletins (such as 91-01 plus supplement) was also identified. Tom Wenck agreed to coordinate sending ORNL the needed documents.

Several hours were spent in discussion of Westinghouse plans for a configuration control program for the plant. An internal review of several years ago uncovered a significant problem of documentation of the facility configuration and a program fix was begun a year ago. A program has been developed, documented, staffed and work has begun in the wet chemical areas. Significant gains in operational efficiency and safety were reported. The need was known before the IIT report on GE was issued, but the lessons learned were an additional incentive for this effort.

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Much of the "commitment" section of the license application consisted of calculational methods and data. As a result of questions on interpreting these historic methods it became clear that they are no longer used. It also became clear that administrative programs, and even major portions of the operational process is no longer accurately reflected in the 1990 renewal application. Westinghouse agreed to update the document during the process of responding to questions on the application.

During the plant tour it became apparent that a significant operation at the site was storing UF<sub>6</sub> containers for a variety of shippers. Even Russia and China were storing uranium gas on this site. This activity is not well described in the application.

The possession stipulation of the application referenced 75,000 kilograms of 6% enriched uranium while the "demonstration" section only addressed 5% enriched uranium. This disconnect was said to be due to the difference between approval to store and the approval to process. I suggested they separate these activities out in the application and provide a safety basis for each.

The licensee agreed to deal with the reporting requirement of Bulletin 91-01 and supplements in the reporting section of the application.

The visit was very useful to acquaint the ORNL team with the operations, management philosophy, and control programs at this facility and was a good opportunity to discuss licensing issues with Westinghouse.

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