

June 3, 1996

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

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR AP600

Dear Mr. Liparulo:

During the May 8, 1996, AP600 senior management meeting between Westinghouse and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, your staff requested clarification of recently proposed changes to the design certification rule affecting technical specifications (TSs). The proposed rule change would remove the Tier 2 designation from the TSs. As a consequence, the combined license (COL) applicant could propose alternative TSs without going through the Tier 2 change process, however, the TSs will not have issue preclusion for the COL proceeding.

Regardless of the ultimate resolution of the rulemaking changes affecting TSs, the staff still requires a complete set of TSs from the design certification applicant. The TS provide an integrated representation of relationships between the operating functionality of various systems and are important to support the staff's overall design review. The staff expects that the TSs will be included in the design control document referenced by the design certification rule but will be treated as conceptual design information.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the responsible project manager, Mr. William Huffman, at (301) 415-1141.

Sincerely,

original signed by:

Theodore R. Quay, Director
Standardization Project Directorate
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 52-003

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Mr. Nicholas J. Liparulo
Westinghouse Electric Corporation

Docket No. 52-003
AP600

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

Mr. Ronald Simard, Director
Advanced Reactor Programs
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 Eye Street, N.W.
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006-3706

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

Ms. Lynn Connor
Doc-Search Associates
Post Office Box 34
Cabin John, MD 20818

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

Mr. James E. Quinn, Projects Manager
LMR and SBWR Programs
GE Nuclear Energy
175 Curtner Avenue, M/C 165
San Jose, CA 95125

Mr. Sterling Franks
U.S. Department of Energy
NE-50
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, MD 20874

Mr. John E. Leatherman, Manager
SBWR Design Certification
GE Nuclear Energy, M/C 781
San Jose, CA 95125

Mr. S. M. Modro
Nuclear Systems Analysis Technologies
Lockheed Idaho Technologies Company
Post Office Box 1625
Idaho Falls, ID 83415

Barton Z. Cowan, Esq.
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott
600 Grant Street 42nd Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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

Mr. Ed Rodwell, Manager
PWR Design Certification
Electric Power Research Institute
3412 Hillview Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Mr. Charles Thompson, Nuclear Engineer
AP600 Certification
NE-50
19901 Germantown Road
Germantown, MD 20874