

Westinghouse Electric Corporation Water Reactor Divisions Box 355 Pittsburgh Pennsylvania 15230-0355

September 10, 1985

NS-NRC-85-3062

Mr. H. L. Thompson, Jr., Director Division of Licensing Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 7920 Norfolk Avenue Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Subject: Licensing of Fuel Failure Criteria for the Locked Rotor Event

Reference:

Letter dated August 7, 1985, Thompson (NRC) to Rahe

(Westinghouse)

Dear Mr. Thompson:

We have received your letter of August 7, (reference, attached) concerning the Westinghouse use in past licensing submittals of fuel failure criteria in NUREG-0562. Specifically, fuel failure had been stated not to occur in conditions of DNB in the locked rotor event due to the short duration of DNB and the low clad temperatures produced. For each plant for which the new criteria were applied, supporting documentation was submitted by Westinghouse to the utilities for inclusion in their plant docket. The staff was requested to review this information on these plants.

Based upon a number of technical meetings with members of the NRC staff during the review process of severel plants and recent Safety Evaluation Reports which indicated no issues outstanding, it was Westinghouse's understanding that this approach was accepted. However, recent discussions with the staff indicate that the approach was not fully reviewed by the staff technical branches. Recognizing this apparent misunderstanding, Westinghouse intends to pursue this issue via a generic topical report (WCAP) for NRC review and approval. We expect that this topical report will be submitted in the second quarter of 1986.

Very truly yours,

8509300323 850910 PDR TOPRP EMVWEST PDR

E. P. Rahe, Jr.

Manager

Nuclear Safety Department

MPO:pj

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

MES 0 7 1985

Mr. Pres Rahe, Manager Nuclear Safety Post Office Box 355 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230

Dear Mr. Rahe:

As a result of our review of a number of recent license or license amendment applications for plants designed by Westinghouse, it has come to our attention that you are using criteria for fuel failure during postulated accidents that have not been approved by the NRC staff. Specifically, you are referencing criteria presented in NUREG-0562. Although this NUREG was prepared by the NRC's Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, it has not been adopted as a basis for licensing by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

While our current review practice requires the assumption of fuel failure following the prediction of DNB below the 95/95 confidence level limit, the regulations applicable to postulated accidents do not specifically prohibit the acceptance of other fuel failure criteria for these events. However, we would require technical justification be provided by any licensee or applicant who intended to show that post-DNB fuel failure didn't occur for postulated accidents in which the DNB criteria were exceeded.

Therefore, until this justification is submitted, and approved by the staff, preferably generically or as a minimum on a plant specific basis, we find your current approach unacceptable and request you refrain from using it in analyses you prepare for submittal to NRC by your customers.

Sincerely,

Hugh L. Thompson, or. director Division of Licensing

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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