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NSD-NRC-98-5796

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

50-482

Attention: T. E. Collins, Chief
Reactor Systems Branch
Division of Systems Safety and Analysis

Subject: Fuel Criteria Evaluation Process Notification for the 17X17 Robust Fuel Assembly with IFM Grid Design

Reference: Letter from N. J. Liparulo (Westinghouse) to J. E. Lyons (NRC), "Transmittal of Response to NRC Request for Information on Wolf Creek Fuel Design Modifications," NSD-NRC-97-5189, June 30, 1997

Dear Mr. Collins:

The NRC was notified in the above reference that the Westinghouse Fuel Criteria Evaluation Process (FCEP) was being used to account for design modifications specific to Wolf Creek fuel. The Wolf Creek design modifications (i.e., Modified VANTAGE 5H (V5H) Low Pressure Drop (LPD) mixing vane grids, Modified V5H Intermediate Flow Mixer (IFM) grids, and thicker walled thimble and instrument tubes) are now being generically applied to 17X17 V5H fuel in other Westinghouse plants as part of a Robust Fuel Assembly (RFA) program. This letter serves as Westinghouse notification to the NRC, as required by the FCEP SER, that the NRC-approved process in WCAP-12488-A is being used to account for the design modifications for the 17X17 RFA with IFM grid design. The above reference concluded that the WRB-2 DNB correlation is applicable to the modified Wolf Creek assembly design. This conclusion also applies to the generic 17X17 RFA with IFM grid design. Initial application of this generic FCEP notification is planned for the Salem Unit 2 Cycle 11 fuel region which is planned to be inserted into Salem Unit 2 in May 1999.

Very truly yours,

H. A. Sepp, Manager
Regulatory and Licensing Engineering

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cc: P. C. Wen, NRR/DRPM/PGE (10H5)

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