

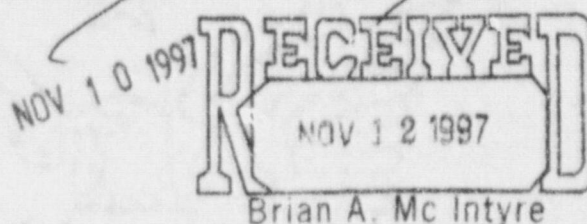


UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

November 6, 1997

*Brian McIntyre*

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



SUBJECT: REPORT ENTITLED "AN ASSESSMENT OF EX-VESSEL STEAM EXPLOSIONS IN THE  
AP600 ADVANCED PRESSURIZED WATER REACTOR"

Dear Mr. Liparulo:

In a November 4, 1997, letter the staff forwarded the subject report to you for your information. The letter noted that a brief discussion of the analyses contained in the report will be included in the staff's final safety evaluation report. However, the report that was forwarded to you was a February 1996, version. The report was subsequently revised to incorporate comments from an internal peer review. Therefore, please find enclosed an updated version (September 1996) of the subject report for your information. If you have any questions concerning this report please contact Michael Snodderly of the Containment Systems and Severe Accident Branch at (301) 415-2047.

You have requested that portions of the information submitted in the June 1992, application for design certification be exempt from mandatory public disclosure. While the staff has not completed its review of your request in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.790, that portion of the submitted information is being withheld from public disclosure pending the staff's final determination. The staff concludes that the enclosed report does not contain those portions of the information for which exemption is sought. However, the staff will withhold this letter from public disclosure for 30 calendar days from the date of this letter to allow Westinghouse the opportunity to verify the staff's conclusions. If, after that time, you do not request that all or portions of the information in the enclosures be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with 10 CFR 2.790, this letter will be placed in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Public Document Room.

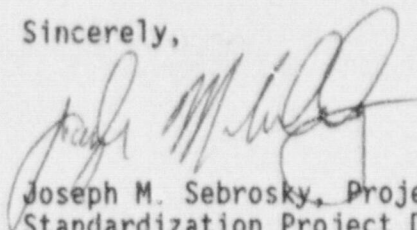
Mr. Nicholas J. Liparulo

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November 6, 1997

If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact me at  
(301) 415-1132.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph M. Sebrosky", is written over the typed name.

Joseph M. Sebrosky, Project Manager  
Standardization Project Directorate  
Division of Reactor Program Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 52-003

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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

Ms. Cindy L. Haag  
Advanced Plant Safety & Licensing  
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Enclosure to be distributed to the following addressees after the result of the proprietary evaluation is received from Westinghouse:

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