

From: [Fields, Leslie](#)
To: ["Holderbaum, Chad M."](#); ["Nowinowski, W Anthony"](#)
Cc: [Dijamco, David](#); [Morey, Dennis](#); [Widrevitz, Dan](#); [Buford, Angie](#)
Subject: Acceptance Review Completed: Topical Report PWROG-18068, "Use of Direct Fracture Toughness for Evaluation of RPV Integrity"
Date: Thursday, September 02, 2021 11:35:00 AM
Attachments: [PWROG-18068 TR Acceptance Review Form final clean.pdf](#)

Mr. W. Anthony Nowinowski, Program Manager
PWR Owners Group, Program Management Office
Westinghouse Electric Company
1000 Westinghouse Drive, Suite 380
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

Dear Mr. Nowinowski,

By letter dated July 27, 2021 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML21209A932), the Pressurized Water Reactor Owners Group (PWROG) submitted Topical Report (TR) PWROG-18068 -P/NP, Revision 1, "Use of Direct Fracture Toughness for Evaluation of RPV Integrity," to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff for review and approval.

In accordance with NRC's process as described in LIC-109, "Acceptance Review Procedures," the NRC staff has reviewed PWROG's submittal and determined that there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to begin the technical review. Based on the complexity of the review, the NRC review team has determined a 15-month review schedule is appropriate.

Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. Currently, the NRC staff plans to issue a request for additional information (RAI) by March 15, 2022, and after receipt of RAI responses, NRC plans to transmit the draft safety evaluation (SE) by July 30, 2022. This schedule information takes into consideration NRC's current review priorities and available technical resources which may be subject to change. If modifications to these dates are deemed necessary, we will provide revisions/updates to this information.

As with all TRs, the SE will be reviewed by the NRC's Office of the General Counsel (OGC) to determine whether it falls within the scope of the Congressional Review Act (CRA). During the course of this review, OGC considers whether any endorsement or acceptance of a TR by the NRC amounts to a rule as defined in the CRA. If this initial review concludes that the SE, with its accompanying TR, may be a rule, the NRC will forward the package to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for further review and consideration. Any review by OMB would impact the schedule for the issuance of the final SE.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Leslie Fields at (301) 415-1186.

Sincerely,
Leslie C. Fields
US NRC

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