

February 27, 2001

Mr. Philip W. Richardson, Manager
Windsor Nuclear Licensing
Westinghouse Electric Company
CE Nuclear Power, LLC
P.O. Box 500
2000 Day Hill Road
Windsor, CT 06095-0500

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF CENPD-404-P, REV. 0, "IMPLEMENTATION OF ZIRLO™
CLADDING MATERIAL IN CE NUCLEAR POWER FUEL DESIGNS" FOR
REVIEW (TAC MB1035)

Dear Mr. Richardson:

An acceptance review of the ZIRLO™ topical report has been performed. We have found that the material presented is complete enough to begin a review. We estimate that the review will require approximately 500 staff hours to complete by the target date of August 15, 2001. Completing our review on this schedule will require close and frequent communications between our technical staffs. We hope to have several intermediate meetings with you as the review progresses.

As discussed during our initial meeting with you on February 8, 2001, we believe that we will focus the review on the sensitivity of your analytical results using ZIRLO™ material properties to those using zircaloy material properties. In addition, it will be important for us to have a clear understanding of the behavior of oxidized ZIRLO™ material during design basis events, especially a loss of coolant accident.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jack Cushing, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 692

cc: See next page

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CE Nuclear Power, LLC

Project No. 692

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