



OG-01-075
December 19, 2001

WCAP-15712, Rev. 0 (Proprietary)
Project Number 694

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Washington, DC 20555-0001

Attention: Chief, Information Management Branch,
Division of Inspection and Support Programs

Subject: Westinghouse Owners Group
**Transmittal of WCAP-15712, Rev. 0, (Proprietary), "IRI High Burnup
Threshold Assessment Program" (MUHP-1900)**

Reference 1 WOG Letter to NRC, "Westinghouse Owners Group Position Paper on
Incomplete Rod Insertion," OG-97-113, October 17, 1997

This letter transmits five (5) copies of WCAP-15712, Rev. 0 (Proprietary), "IRI High Burnup Threshold Assessment Program," dated November 2001. WCAP-15712 addresses an NRC concern relative to the Incomplete Rod Insertion (IRI) issue that a 'data void' existed in measured fuel assembly drag from fuel assemblies with exposures greater than 50,000 MWD/MTU (assembly average). WCAP-15712 evaluated an additional 104 fuel assemblies with exposures greater than 50,000 MWD/MTU. Based on these additional evaluations as reported in WCAP-15712, the WOG along with Westinghouse have concluded:

- The existing WOG Fuel Burnup Threshold limits for rodged assemblies, as reported in reference 1, are conservative and should not be changed.
- Implementation of fuel design features, such as IFM grids, thicker thimble tubes or smaller bottom nozzle rod gap (BNRG), reduces the potential for IRI.
- The IRI issue has been addressed and additional analysis or testing is not needed.
- IRI issue with respect to fuel assembly /thimble tube bowing is closed.

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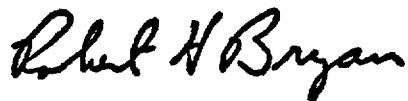
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If you require further information, feel free to contact Mr. Ken Vavrek in the Westinghouse Owners Group Project Office at 412-374-4302.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert H. Bryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert H. Bryan, Chairman
Westinghouse Owners Group

enclosures

OG-01-075
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cc: Westinghouse Owners Group Primary Representatives (1L)
Westinghouse Owners Group Steering Committee (1L)
Westinghouse Owners Group Analysis Subcommittee Representatives (1L)
Westinghouse Owners Group Fuel Working Group Representatives (1L)
B. Barron, Duke Energy (1L)
C. Bakken, AEP (1L)
D.G. Holland, NRC, USNRC OWFN 7E 1 (1L, 1E)
M.S. Chatterton, USNRC (1L, 1A) 8 A33 (1L, 1E)
U. Shoop, NRC, USNRC OWFN 10 B3 (1L, 1E)
G. Bischoff, WOG W ECE 5-16 (1L)
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