

February 15, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Gary Janosko, Chief
Fuel Cycle Facilities Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety
and Safeguards, NMSS

THROUGH: John Lubinski, Chief /RA/
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FROM: Mary Adams, Senior Project Manager /RA/
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SUBJECT: TRIP REPORT - WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC COMPANY, COLUMBIA
FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY, LICENSE RENEWAL REVIEW TEAM
SITE VISIT

On January 17-19, 2006, staff from U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Fuel Manufacturing Section, Mixed Oxide Fuel Licensing Section, and the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response (NSIR) traveled to the Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility (CFFF) in Columbia, South Carolina, for a license renewal review team site visit. Westinghouse (WEC) submitted an application for renewal of SNM-1107 on September 29, 2005 (non-public version ML052790080, public version ML052990073), which the NRC accepted for review on November 2, 2005 (ML052980594). The purpose of the site visit was to familiarize the license renewal review team with the physical layout of the CFFF, discuss preliminary comments and questions with regard to the renewal application.

The team toured the UF_6 vaporization process, the ADU conversion process, the UO_2 powder and pelleting processes, the PWR and BWR assembly processes, the scrap recovery and solvent extraction process, and other supporting process operations, including bulk chemical storage, fire protection, and wastewater treatment. The NSIR reviewer also visited the CFFF's physical protection facilities and operations. Following the site tour, the NRC renewal review staff met with the WEC licensing staff to discuss preliminary comments and questions in the areas of health physics, conduct of operations, fire and chemical safety, Integrated Safety Analysis, and physical protection. The trip was highly successful in that the reviewers and the licensee were able to clearly understand the regulatory issues, and licensee's operations and safety controls.

Questions and comments concerning other technical review areas, specifically nuclear criticality safety and the National Environmental Policy Act, were not discussed during this site visit. Comments and questions on these areas will be discussed during a future site visit, tentatively scheduled for March 2006.

Following the January site visit, the NRC staff will finalize their comments and questions (excluding health physics-related questions) into a request for additional information, to be sent to the licensee in February 2006. WEC has committed to provide the NRC with a revised Radiation Protection Chapter 5, in response to the health physics-related questions that were discussed during the site visit, by March 31, 2006. The NRC intends to complete the license renewal review by August 2006.

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