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Your ref:
Our ref: DCP_NRC_003202

February 15, 2012

Subject: Westinghouse Notification of Intent to Submit Topical Report on Increased Long-Term Core Cooling Debris Limits for the AP1000®

For the AP1000, the regulatory requirements for long-term core cooling for design basis accidents have been adequately met, and the issue is closed based on the review of the AP1000 DCD, Revision 19. In order to provide an operational enhancement to the current design, Westinghouse Electric Company, LLC is planning the submittal, for NRC staff review and safety evaluation, of a topical report containing a proposed increase of the long-term core cooling debris limits. The primary objective of the Westinghouse project is to demonstrate adequate margin for long-term core cooling with an increase in the allowable amount of latent fiber debris permitted in the AP1000. The planned approach to the project is to perform testing and analysis to identify additional margin and quantify existing uncertainties that justifies an increase of the fiber limits in accordance with current NRC guidance.

The deliverables for the project will be a topical report and supporting technical reports documenting the testing and analysis performed under this project. The documents submitted, in most instances, will be a revision to the documents submitted for NRC staff review on the AP1000 Design Certification Amendment docket. However, additional reports are expected to be submitted as well, and these will be discussed at an introductory meeting with the staff on the project.

Westinghouse intends to submit the topical report and supporting technical reports in 2013. The anticipated duration of staff review, up to drafting of the final safety evaluation, is anticipated to be approximately 18 months. Suggested high level project milestones are shown below. It is expected that the need for staff interaction with Westinghouse on this project, prior to report submittals, will be discussed and agreed to in future meetings.

- Introductory Meeting with NRC staff (March 2012)
- Introductory Meeting with ACRS (April 2012)
- Docketing of Reports (2013)
- NRC issuing of final SER (2015)

The timing of this program has been selected to support possible implementation in the first US AP1000 projects.

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Questions related to the content in this letter should be directed to Westinghouse. Project invoice should be directed to the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Russ". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being the most prominent.

Paul A. Russ
Director, AP1000 Licensing

cc: R. Joshi - U.S. NRC
M. Tonacci - U.S. NRC
M. Melton - Westinghouse