

February 25, 2013

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

SUBJECT: USE OF CONTAINMENT ACCIDENT PRESSURE IN DEMONSTRATING
ACCEPTABLE OPERATION OF EMERGENCY CORE COOLING SYSTEM AND
CONTAINMENT HEAT REMOVAL PUMPS DURING POSTULATED ACCIDENTS

Dear Mr. Nowinowski:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensees, including many licensees operating pressurized water reactors (PWRs), have included the use of containment accident pressure in demonstrating acceptable operation of the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) and containment heat removal pumps during postulated accidents.

The NRC staff undertook a review of this issue and issued a draft guidance document for your review by letter dated March 24, 2010, Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML100740516. That draft guidance document is available in ADAMS under the Accession No. ML100550869.

The NRC staff has revised the draft guidance document to provide additional clarifications, including the addition of a flow chart entitled "Flow Chart for LOCA [loss-of-coolant accident] Containment and NPSH [net positive suction head] Analyses" and its accompanying sketches "Figure a," and "Figure b." This flow chart along with the sketches provide a snapshot summary of the required analyses to be performed to support power uprate and other license amendment applications to demonstrate adequate NPSH to the ECCS and containment heat removal pumps. The flow chart clarifies the guidance for the analyses to be performed and does not reflect changes in the guidance from the previous version of the draft guidance document.

We have enclosed the revised draft guidance document, entitled "NRC Draft Guidance for the Use of Containment Accident Pressure in Determining the NPSH Margin for ECCS and Containment Heat Removal Pumps in Boiling Water and Pressurized Water Reactors," dated March 16, 2012, and ask that you share it with interested members of the PWR community. The document is also available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML13015A437. The NRC staff intends to use this draft guidance in engaging stakeholders and issue an Interim Guidance Document in the near future.

A. Nowinowski

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jonathan Rowley at (301) 415-4053.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony J. Mendiola, Chief
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 694

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

A. Nowinowski

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PWR Owner's Group
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Project No. 694

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