



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
REGION II  
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

December 9, 2016

EA-16-173

Mr. Mike Annacone  
Vice President,  
Columbia Fuel Operations  
Westinghouse Electric Company  
5801 Bluff Road  
Hopkins, SC 29061

**SUBJECT: WESTINGHOUSE COLUMBIA FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY, REALIGNMENT  
OF NUCLEAR CRITICALITY SAFETY OVERSIGHT - DOCKET NO. 70-1151**

Dear Mr. Annacone:

On August 11, 2016, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) (ML16224B082) to confirm commitments by Westinghouse to take certain actions prior to restarting the S-1030 scrubber system and conversion process equipment at the Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility (CFFF) in Columbia, SC. The actions documented in the CAL were intended to ensure that the root causes of the event which occurred in May 2016, in the S-1030 scrubber were adequately evaluated, and that appropriate corrective actions were implemented before resumption of operations. The actions were determined to be necessary to provide reasonable assurance of Westinghouse's ability to safely operate the CFFF.

By letter to the NRC dated November 29, 2016 (ML16341A841), Westinghouse proposed that future external oversight of nuclear criticality safety (NCS) functions by an on-site NCS expert (CAL Item 3.i), be performed remotely (and on-site as necessary) until corrective actions from the root cause evaluation are complete and an effectiveness review is performed. This would permit the designated on-site external NCS expert, who has been at CFFF since August 17, 2016, to return to his home location. The NRC also understands oversight functions may be delegated to on-site qualified NCS personnel who are external to Westinghouse (e.g., Atkins Nuclear Solutions Engineer). The NRC has no objections to this proposal.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Eric Michel, Chief, Projects Branch 2, at 404-997-4555.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Catherine Haney  
Regional Administrator

Docket No. 70-1151  
License No. SNM-1107

cc: (See page 3)

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Eric Michel, Chief, Projects Branch 2, at 404-997-4555.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Catherine Haney  
Regional Administrator

Docket No. 70-1151  
License No. SNM-1107

cc: (See page 3)

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