

NOV 25 1992

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

Westinghouse Electric Corporation
ATTN: Mr. R. H. Koga, Manager
Columbia Plant
Commercial Nuclear Fuel Plant
Drawer R
Columbia, SC 29250

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 70-1151/92-04

This refers to the Operational Safety Assessment (OSA) conducted on August 17-28, 1992, by the NRC with the assistance of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of activities authorized by NRC License No. SNM-1107 at your facility in Columbia, South Carolina. This also refers to the review of the Manufacturing Automation Project (MAP) vaporizer incident involving excessive water in MAP vaporizers in July 1992. The results of the assessment and review of the incident were discussed with you at the conclusion of the assessment.

Areas addressed during this assessment are described in the enclosed report. Within the areas reviewed, the assessment consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with plant personnel, and observations by the team members.

This report does not specifically address enforcement issues. However, the program weaknesses and unresolved item identified below will be reviewed for enforcement action during future inspections. Any enforcement issues evolving from these reviews will be dealt with separately at a later date.

As a result of this assessment seven renewal items were identified. These items should be addressed in your license renewal application. Also, various program strengths and weaknesses were identified during the assessment. Of particular concern were three program weaknesses and one unresolved item identified in the area of criticality safety. The three weaknesses were as follows, the control of non-favorable geometry containers, the ability of process engineers to make substitution changes without proper training, and the evaluation of facility changes. The unresolved item dealt with consideration of an overflow condition in a Raschig ring filled tank. Results of this assessment indicated that not all appropriate programmatic guidance and procedures were in place to ensure adequate implementation of the criticality safety program. In addition, one program weakness identified in the area of radiation protection dealing with the contamination control and survey program was significant in that numerous examples of failures were found in this area.

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As we discussed after the exit, it is our understanding that you are implementing a Performance Improvement Program (PIP) in the area of nuclear criticality safety which will address, in an integrated fashion, all weaknesses and problems in that area, including any you have identified. You are requested to submit information regarding the PIP in addition to the submittal requested below.

For those areas identified in the report summary as "program weaknesses," we recognize that explicit regulatory requirements pertaining to each item may not currently exist. Notwithstanding this, you are requested to submit to this office the following information within 60 days of receipt of this letter:

1. The actions you have taken and plan to take concerning each weakness, and
2. A schedule for completion of each corrective action not already completed.

In accordance with 10 C.F.R. 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The response directed by this letter are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96.511.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

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J. Philip Stohr, Director
Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure:
Operational Safety Assessment
Report

cc w/encl:
Heyward G. Shealy, Chief
Bureau of Radiological Health
S. C. Department of Health
and Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

bcc w/encl: (See page 3)

Westinghouse Electric Corporation

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D. M. Collins

C. Bassett

R. Bellamy, RI

J. Grobe, RIII

C. Cain, RIV

J. Reese, RV

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