



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

February 10, 1993

*Docket
File*

Docket No. 52-003

Mr. Nicholas J. Liparulo, Manager
Nuclear Safety and Regulatory Analysis
Nuclear and Advanced Technology Division
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230-0355

Dear Mr. Liparulo:

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC)/WESTINGHOUSE
COOPERATIVE TESTING OF THE AP600 DESIGN

This letter responds to Westinghouse Electric Corporation's proposal to establish a cooperative AP600 integral test program involving both NRC- and Westinghouse-sponsored test facilities. After serious evaluation, we have concluded that establishing a cooperative testing agreement is not in the best interest of either the NRC or Westinghouse.

By its very nature, a cooperative agreement means that each party participates in the other party's programs. Conflict of interest considerations would prohibit the NRC from participating cooperatively in that part of your experimental program in which the results would be used to directly support your certification application. We previously understood that Westinghouse planned to run additional tests with its facilities that would not be used to directly support certification, but rather would serve as additional confirmatory testing. However, we now understand that Westinghouse does not plan to run any additional tests in their facilities, and that all tests run will be used to directly support certification. Therefore, a cooperative agreement, as we originally understood it, appears no longer practical.

We do not feel that the NRC's confirmatory research program will be adversely affected by the lack of a cooperative testing agreement. In light of Westinghouse's obvious interest in the NRC's confirmatory test program and the

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program's results, the NRC will keep Westinghouse informed of the status of the program and will provide you opportunity for comment. If you have questions related to this letter, please contact Rick Hasselberg at (301) 504-1141.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by)

Dennis M. Crutchfield, Associate Director
for Advanced Reactors and License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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Mr. Nicholas J. Liparulo
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Westinghouse Electric Corporation
AP600

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