



Westinghouse
Electric Corporation

Water Reactor
Divisions

Box 355
Pittsburgh Pennsylvania 15230-0355

September 10, 1985

NS-NRC-85-3062

Mr. H. L. Thompson, Jr., Director
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7920 Norfolk Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Subject: Licensing of Fuel Failure Criteria for the Locked Rotor Event

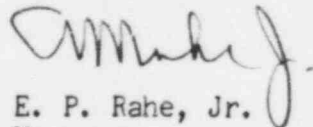
Reference: Letter dated August 7, 1985, Thompson (NRC) to Rahe
(Westinghouse)

Dear Mr. Thompson:

We have received your letter of August 7, (reference, attached) concerning the Westinghouse use in past licensing submittals of fuel failure criteria in NUREG-0562. Specifically, fuel failure had been stated not to occur in conditions of DNB in the locked rotor event due to the short duration of DNB and the low clad temperatures produced. For each plant for which the new criteria were applied, supporting documentation was submitted by Westinghouse to the utilities for inclusion in their plant docket. The staff was requested to review this information on these plants.

Based upon a number of technical meetings with members of the NRC staff during the review process of several plants and recent Safety Evaluation Reports which indicated no issues outstanding, it was Westinghouse's understanding that this approach was accepted. However, recent discussions with the staff indicate that the approach was not fully reviewed by the staff technical branches. Recognizing this apparent misunderstanding, Westinghouse intends to pursue this issue via a generic topical report (WCAP) for NRC review and approval. We expect that this topical report will be submitted in the second quarter of 1986.

Very truly yours,



E. P. Rahe, Jr.
Manager
Nuclear Safety Department

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

APR 07 1985

Mr. Pres Rahe, Manager
Nuclear Safety
Post Office Box 355
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230

Dear Mr. Rahe:

As a result of our review of a number of recent license or license amendment applications for plants designed by Westinghouse, it has come to our attention that you are using criteria for fuel failure during postulated accidents that have not been approved by the NRC staff. Specifically, you are referencing criteria presented in NUREG-0562. Although this NUREG was prepared by the NRC's Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, it has not been adopted as a basis for licensing by the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

While our current review practice requires the assumption of fuel failure following the prediction of DNB below the 95/95 confidence level limit, the regulations applicable to postulated accidents do not specifically prohibit the acceptance of other fuel failure criteria for these events. However, we would require technical justification be provided by any licensee or applicant who intended to show that post-DNB fuel failure didn't occur for postulated accidents in which the DNB criteria were exceeded.

Therefore, until this justification is submitted, and approved by the staff, preferably generically or as a minimum on a plant specific basis, we find your current approach unacceptable and request you refrain from using it in analyses you prepare for submittal to NRC by your customers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hugh L. Thompson, Jr.", is written over the typed name.

Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., Director
Division of Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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