



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

October 16, 1996

Nicholas J. Liparulo, Manager
Regulatory and Engineering Networks
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Post Office Box 355
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230-0355

Dear Mr. Liparulo:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR WITHHOLDING INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE -
WESTINGHOUSE LETTER OF JUNE 11, 1996

By your letter (NSD-NRC-96-4740) dated June 11, 1996, you submitted both proprietary and non-proprietary versions of material that was presented at a meeting with the staff on March 25, 1996. The meeting was held to provide the staff with an update of the incomplete rod cluster control assembly insertion issue. In letter AW-96-973, dated June 10, 1996, you requested the proprietary material be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with 10 CFR 2.790. This is the response to that request.

In your affidavit dated June 12, 1996, you stated that you considered certain information in the presentation material proprietary and requested that it be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790. The affidavit stated that this information should be considered exempt from mandatory public disclosure for the following reasons:

- (a) The information reveals the distinguishing aspects of a process (or component, structure, tool, method, etc.) where prevention of its use by any of Westinghouse's competitors without license from Westinghouse constitutes a competitive economic advantage over other companies.
- (b) It consists of supporting data, including test data, relative to a process (or component, structure, tool, method, etc.), the application of which data secures a competitive economic advantage, e.g., by optimization or improved marketability.
- (c) Its use by a competitor would reduce his expenditure of resources or improve his competitive position in the design, manufacture, shipment, installation, assurance of quality, or licensing a similar product.

We have carefully reviewed your June 10, 1996 request and the information contained in your request. We have concluded that some of the material may be withheld in accordance with 10 CFR 2.790, but that certain other material should be released and placed in the Public Document Room (PDR). The information that we do not believe includes distinguishing aspects or would

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improve a competitor's economic advantage and information that we do not believe constitute trade secrets or proprietary commercial information is the following. We have listed the reason in parentheses.

- 1) All three bullets under Conclusions on page titled "Wolf Creek Investigation:"
 - ...in and out of reactor correlate well
 - ...detected in and out of dashpot
 - ...magnitude of drag correlates with burnup

(All non-proprietary in previous information)
- 2) First and fourth bullets under Observations on page titled "Drag Tests With Upper Internals in Place:"
 - ...show the highest drag
 - ...increases with burnup

(Non-proprietary elsewhere)
- 3) Second bullet under Observations on page titled "Drag Tests with Upper Internals in Place:"
 - ...do not exceed the weight of the RCCA and drive rod

(Public safety)
- 4) Second and third bullets on page titled "Drag Test of RCCA's in Reference Fuel Assembly:"
 - ...of less than 20 pounds.

...showed low drag, the source of friction must be the fuel assembly.
...showed no abnormalities.

(Needed for Wolf Creek startup)
- 5) Conclusions on page titled "Drag Test With Short RCCA Standard:"
 - ...relatively small interference...the thimble tube distortion may extend into this area. There is no evidence the top nozzle is misaligned or "cocked".

(Public safety and later non-proprietary)
- 6) Observations and Conclusions on page titled "Fuel Assembly Bow Measurements:"
 - * Fuel assembly bow was judged to be within the 'normal' range based on the Westinghouse experience base. Bow tended to be larger on the higher burnup assemblies.

Since these measurements indicate "banana" bow of similar shape and magnitude as previously observed in other plants and fuel types, it should not in itself be a major contributor to the high drag observations.

(Public safety)

- 7) Observations and Conclusions on page titled "Boroscope Inspection:"
...spiral pattern...relatively straight.

...spiral shape...

(Public safety)

- 8) First bullet under Conclusions on page titled "Single Tube Probes:"
...both dashpot and over a range of 1-2 feet at major diameter elevations

(Public Safety)

- 9) Page titled "Wolf Creek Summary:"
...in and out of reactor correlate well

...detected in and out of dashpot

...magnitude of drag correlates with burnup

(Non-proprietary elsewhere)

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(c), this information is being forwarded to you as notice that these portions of the information will be placed in the PDR thirty (30) days from the date of this letter. If within thirty (30) days of this letter, you request withdrawal of these documents in accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(c), or provide additional reasons for the withholding of information not already expunged from the documents enclosed, your request will be considered in light of applicable statutes and regulations and a determination made whether the documents will be withheld from public disclosure or returned to you.

Withholding from public inspection shall not affect the right, if any, of persons properly and directly concerned to inspect the documents. If the need arises, we may send copies of this information to our consultants working in this area. We will, of course, ensure that the consultants have signed the appropriate agreements for handling proprietary information.

If the basis for withholding this information from public disclosure should change in the future such that the information could then be made available for public inspection, you should promptly notify the NRC. You should understand that the NRC may have cause to review this determination in the future, for example, if the scope of a Freedom of Information Act request

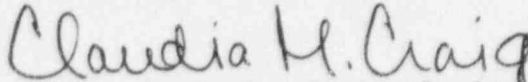
N. Liparulo

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October 16, 1996

includes your withheld information. In all review situations, if the NRC makes a determination adverse to the above, you will be notified in advance of any public disclosure.

Sincerely,



Claudia M. Craig, Senior Project Manager
Generic Issues and Environmental
Projects Branch
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: Mr. Andy Drake, Project Manager
Westinghouse Owners Group
Post Office Box 355
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230-0355

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