

October 17, 1996

Mr. Thomas V. Greene, Chairman
Westinghouse Owners Group
Georgia Power Company
P. O. Box 1295, Bin 042
Birmingham, AL 35201

SUBJECT: WESTINGHOUSE OWNERS GROUP REPORTS: WCAP-14571 AND WCAP-14358

Dear Mr. Greene,

By letters dated September 5, 1996 (OG-96-077 and OG-96-078), the Westinghouse Owners Group submitted two reports and a supplement for NRC staff review and approval: WCAP-14571, "Westinghouse Owners Group Application of Risk-Based Methods to Pump Inservice Testing Demonstration Project;" WCAP-14358, "Westinghouse Owners Group Application of Risk-Based Methods to Check Valve Inservice Testing Demonstration Project;" and WCAP-14358, Supplement 1, "Westinghouse Owners Group Application of Risk-Based Methods to Check Valve Inservice Testing Condition Monitoring Program Topical Report." As mentioned in the forwarding letters, the staff is currently involved in a number of activities associated with developing acceptable approaches for the use of risk insights in helping to define inservice testing (IST) strategies. Because staff resources are focused on developing the risk-informed IST regulatory guide and standard review plan and reviewing existing pilot plant applications at Comanche Peak and Palo Verde, the staff is unable to formally review the referenced reports at this time. The staff will, however, consider the material in your reports during the development of the guidance and staff review of pilot plant submittals. These activities will involve interactions with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safety, the Commission, and industry groups such as American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), and the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI).

Formal review of the subject WCAPs will be delayed until these activities are further along (at least six months). Before the staff begins its formal review of these reports, the staff will need reasonable assurance that the reports will be used by a number of plants. This may be accomplished through a pilot plant submittal (e.g., proposed change to a licensee's IST program).

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

David B. Matthews, Chief

Generic Issues and Environmental
Projects Branch

Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 694

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

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David B. Matthews, Chief
Generic Issues and Environmental
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