



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

November 15, 1996

Mr. David R. Bishop, Chairman
Reactor Vessel Head Missile Shield Removal MiniGroup
Westinghouse Owners Group
Indian Point Station, Unit 2
Broadway and Bleakley Avenues
Buchanan, New York 10511

SUBJECT: WESTINGHOUSE OWNERS GROUP (WOG) MINIGROUP REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH
NRC TO DISCUSS REMOVAL OF THE REACTOR VESSEL HEAD MISSILE SHIELD
(RVHMS) FROM WESTINGHOUSE PLANTS

Dear Mr. Bishop:

By letter dated August 15, 1996, the WOG RVHMS MiniGroup requested a meeting with the staff to discuss the removal of the RVHMS from Westinghouse plants. The letter indicates that the WOG RVHMS MiniGroup has prepared preliminary information regarding the technical and licensing justification for deleting the missile shield from Westinghouse plants using the provisions of 10 CFR 50.59. The WOG MiniGroup letter provided a short background of the issue and noted that the justification for removal of the missile shield is based on the results of the AP600 design review that concluded there were no credible sources of missiles within the AP600 containment building.

The provisions of 10 CFR 50.59 allow licensees to make changes to their facility unless there is a change to Technical Specifications or there is an unreviewed safety question. Each licensee should make a determination whether removal of the RVHMS in their plant is governed by 10 CFR 50.59. If the licensee determines the change can be made under 10 CFR 50.59, the staff has the option of reviewing the licensee's determination at a later time. If an unreviewed safety question is identified by a licensee, the change would need prior NRC review and approval. Should the WOG RVHMS MiniGroup decide that NRC review and approval is necessary before the RVHMS is removed, then a topical should be submitted along with a plant-specific application that indicates an intent to use the proposed generic method. The topical would then be prioritized and reviewed.

We understand that before the RVHMS MiniGroup can make such a decision, there may be benefit in meeting and discussing the proposal. In order to conserve

DF03
1/0

96-150
NRC FILE CENTER COPY

Proj-694

200057

9611210081 961115
PDR PROJ
694 PDR

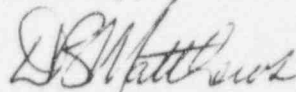
D. Bishop

-2-

November 15, 1996

limited resources, sufficient additional descriptive information regarding the proposal would need to be developed and provided to the NRC along with indications of licensees' intent to implement the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D B Matthews".

David B. Matthews, Chief
Generic Issues and Environmental
Projects Branch
Division of Reactor Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 694

cc: See next page

D. Bishop

-2-

November 15., 1996

limited resources, sufficient additional descriptive information regarding the proposal would need to be developed and provided to the NRC along with indications of licensees' intent to implement the 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

cc: See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC *CENTRAL FILES*
PGEB R/F
TMartin
RWessman
DMatthews
FAkstulewciz
CCraig
FGrubelich
KManoly

Dockment Name: P:SHIELD.LTR

#1 11/12/96 11/13/96

OFFICE	PGEB <i>MC</i>	SC:PGEB <i>m</i>	BC:EMEB	BC:PGEB
NAME	CCraig:sw	RArchitzel	RWessman <i>TW</i>	DMatthews
DATE	11/17/96	11/18/96	11/18/96	11/15/96

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

96-150
NRC FILE CENTER COPY

cc:

Mr. Nicholas J. Liparulo, Manager
Regulatory & Engineering Networks
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

Mr. Hank Sepp
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

Mr. Andrew Drake, Project Manager
Westinghouse Owners Group
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
P.O. Box 355
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355