



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 3, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Jackson
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Dicus
Commissioner Diaz
Commissioner McGaffigan

FROM: James M. Taylor *[Signature]*
Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: DESIGN CERTIFICATION ANNUAL REPORT AND ANNUAL BRIEFING AND
AP600 REVIEW SCHEDULE

A number of years ago, the staff established a practice of providing annual reports to and conducting annual briefings for the Commission regarding the status of advanced and evolutionary reactor reviews. These briefings and annual reports served the Commission well when the staff was involved in the review of two evolutionary designs, two passive designs, and multiple other advanced reactor designs. Recent staff efforts have involved only the two evolutionary designs (the advanced boiling water reactor (ABWR) and the Asea Brown Boveri-Combustion Engineering, Inc. (ABB-CE) System 80+) and one passive design (the Westinghouse AP600). Action on the evolutionary designs is before the Commission in the form of final rules. The staff is awaiting the Commission's staff requirement memorandum (SRM) on this subject to proceed with the issuance of the final rules.

In light of the substantially reduced level of activity associated with advanced and evolutionary reactors, the annual report and briefing have served its purpose. The annual report scheduled for this fall would only duplicate the information now before the Commission on the three designs. Furthermore, staff action following the SRM on the ABWR and ABB-CE System 80+ should be complete before the annual spring briefing leaving only AP600 review issues to discuss. The staff is already committed to inform the Commission on various items associated with this review (schedule, final safety evaluation, and proposed certification rule). Therefore, it is proposed that the annual report and briefing be discontinued.

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With respect to the AP600, the staff has a paper (SECY-96-128) on policy issues before the Commission. The staff earlier informed the Commission (SECY-96-068) that it was developing an overall schedule for certification of the AP600. In response to an NRC letter dated September 26, 1996, Westinghouse on October 15, 1996, submitted new dates for its submittal of the information necessary to complete the AP600 review. The staff met with Westinghouse on November 12, 1996, to discuss a new schedule. These discussions with Westinghouse and those that will occur later in a meeting scheduled for December 9, 1996, coupled with a Commission SRM on the policy issues, will enable the staff to develop a final AP600 schedule. The staff's current target for completing this scheduling effort is February 1996.

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