

March 6, 1997

Westinghouse Electric Corporation
ATTN: Mr. J. A. Fici, Manager
Columbia Plant
Commercial Nuclear Fuel Division
Drawer R
Columbia, SC 29250

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 70-1151/97-01 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Fici:

This refers to the inspection conducted on February 3-6, 1997, at the Columbia Nuclear Fuel Plant, and subsequent telephone conversations involving members of your staff and NRC staff. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the enclosed report.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress.

Based on the results of this inspection, certain of your activities appeared to be in violation of NRC requirements, as specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice). The first violation is of concern because effective corrective action to preclude recurrence was not taken following discovery by your internal audit function. Also, the failure to follow approved Regulatory Affairs Procedures for minimizing personnel contamination and exposure increases the potential for loose contamination ingestion and thus unnecessary dose or other hazardous conditions. The second violation is also of concern because it reflects a lack of oversight of regulatory requirements.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

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Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

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Edward J. McAlpine, Chief
Fuel Facilities Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No. 70-1151
License No. SNM-1107

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report

cc w/encls:
Wilbur Goodwin, Manager
Regulatory Affairs
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Commercial Nuclear Fuel Division
Drawer R
Columbia, SC 29250

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