



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

REGION II  
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

June 30, 2021

Mr. Mike Annacone  
Vice President, Columbia Fuel Operations and  
Manager, Columbia Plant  
Westinghouse Electric Company  
5801 Bluff Road  
Hopkins, SC 29061

SUBJECT: WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC COMPANY – INVESTIGATION SUMMARY, OFFICE OF  
INVESTIGATIONS CASE NUMBER 2-2021-009/RII-2021-A-0001

Dear Mr. Annacone:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Office of Investigations (OI) has closed the subject case regarding an unknown employee(s) disabling a safety feature of a designated item relied on for safety (IROFS) within the Conversion/Scrap Area at the Westinghouse fuel facility in Hopkins, SC.

The NRC determined there was insufficient evidence to substantiate the allegation that an employee(s) deliberately disabled a spring-return valve by using a bungee cord to hold it in the open position, thereby disabling its safety function. The spring-return valve is credited as an IROFS for a criticality safety accident sequence to prevent the backflow of potentially uranium bearing wastewater from entering the plant nitrogen lines. We plan no further action regarding this matter; however, technical staff may contact your staff pertaining to any actions associated with the safety aspects of this issue. Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Copies of documents related to this report may be requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Requests for records under FOIA can be made to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Mail Stop T-5 F09, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or you can fax your request to the NRC Rockville, Maryland office at (301) 415-5130, or email at [FOIA.resource@NRC.GOV](mailto:FOIA.resource@NRC.GOV). Any information provided under FOIA will, to the extent consistent with that act, be purged of names and other potential identifiers.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice and Procedure" a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Sincerely,

Eric C. Michel, Chief  
Projects Branch 2  
Division of Fuel Facility Inspection