



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs

Telephone: 301/415-8200

Washington, DC 20555-0001

E-mail: opa@nrc.gov

Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>

No. 04-112

September 13, 2004

NRC ISSUES FINAL SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT AND FINAL DESIGN APPROVAL FOR WESTINGHOUSE AP1000 ADVANCED REACTOR DESIGN

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a final safety evaluation report and final design approval for the Westinghouse AP1000 advanced reactor design. The approval is good for five years.

NRC staff spent more than two years carefully reviewing the design for the plant, which is capable of producing approximately 1,000 megawatts of electricity and features enhanced systems to safely shut down the reactor or mitigate the effects of an accident. It is designed for a 60-year operating life.

“The staff at the NRC has conducted an extensive technical evaluation on this next-generation reactor design and recommended its approval,” said James Dyer, director of NRC’s Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. “The final step in the process is to incorporate the design into NRC’s regulations, using a rule-making process that includes a public comment period.”

Such a certification, if granted by the commission on staff recommendation, would allow a utility to reference the design in an application for a nuclear power plant license.

NRC has certified three other standard reactor designs: an Advanced Boiling Water Reactor, System 80+ and AP600. NRC has long sought standardization of nuclear power plant designs and the enhanced safety and licensing reform that standardization could make possible.

The Final Safety Evaluation Report can be accessed electronically on Sept. 20, 2004, through the NRC Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) by going to: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html> , and entering accession number ML042540268. For help in using ADAMS, call 800/397-4209 or 301/415-4737. More information about the AP1000 review can be found on the NRC’s Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-licensing/license-reviews/design-cert/ap1000.html>

###