

December 22, 1999

The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Committee on Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has sent to the Office of the Federal Register the enclosed Federal Register Notice that will amend the Commission's regulations for licensing commercial nuclear power plants (10 CFR Part 52). Specifically, this rule (Appendix C to Part 52) will certify the AP600 standard plant design, which was submitted to the NRC for its review by the Westinghouse Electric Company LLC.

This final design certification rule is necessary to partially fulfill the objectives of Part 52, which are to provide licensing stability, early resolution of licensing issues, and to enhance the safety and reliability of nuclear power plants through standardization. Those wishing to obtain a license to build or operate the AP600 standard plant design will be able to do so by referencing the AP600 design certification rule.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dennis K. Rathbun, Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure: Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Rick Boucher

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