

23. REVIEW BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) has completed its review of the AP1000 standard design. The ACRS Subcommittee on Thermal-Hydraulic Phenomena met with representatives from the Westinghouse Electric Company and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff on several occasions. The discussions during these meetings focused on issues identified during the pre-application review, a summary of requests for additional information associated with the safety analysis results, and open items from the draft safety evaluation report. In addition, the ACRS Subcommittees on Future Plant Designs and Reliability and Probabilistic Risk Assessment began their detailed reviews of the AP1000 design in January 2003.

On the basis of its reviews, the ACRS issued an interim letter report, dated March 17, 2004, which addresses the AP1000 design. The staff responded to the interim letter report in its letter dated May 18, 2004, as well as during related meetings with the ACRS. At the 514th meeting of the ACRS, the full Committee considered the Westinghouse application for certification of the AP1000 standard design, and issued its final letter report to the NRC Chairman on July 20, 2004. That letter report is included as Appendix G to this report. In addition, the attachment to that letter report provides a chronology of the related ACRS reviews.

In its final letter report dated July 20, 2004, the ACRS concluded that the AP1000 design is robust and offers reasonable assurance that an AP1000 standard plant can be built and operated without posing an undue risk to the health and safety of the public.