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Mr. John Kotek  
Acting Assistant Secretary for the Office of  
Nuclear Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
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**Subject: Supporting development of Advanced Test Fast Reactor to accelerate deployment of advanced nuclear technologies**

Dear Mr. Kotek,

Support from the U.S. Department of Energy to nuclear energy research, development and demonstration is crucial to enhance the economic competitiveness and market attractiveness of nuclear energy, while constantly ensuring safety. Such support is also pivotal for the U.S. to maintain nuclear energy leadership in a world where state-owned enterprises regularly compete with U.S.-based private sector enterprises. These goals require availability of an adequate, versatile domestic neutron irradiation facility capable of accelerating development and deployment of new, *high-performance* nuclear technologies. In light of this, Westinghouse fully supports the construction of a new Advanced Test Reactor with fast neutron spectrum capabilities, to accelerate commercialization of high-performance fuel designs and materials for both LWR and non-LWR technologies. Advanced irradiation testing capabilities are in fact needed to allow new technologies to be proven to their *fullest* safety and economic potential, by demonstrating acceptable performance of fuel system materials in conditions that are prototypical and more challenging, in terms of neutron damage and temperature, than those available in existing test reactors.

Westinghouse anticipates irradiation testing needs for the development of high-performance LWR and high-performance Lead Fast Reactor technologies. We and other U.S. vendors will greatly benefit from the availability in the U.S. of irradiation testing capabilities that address these needs. The Advanced Test Fast Reactor under conceptual design by U.S. national laboratories represents an ideal platform to achieve this goal. Westinghouse fully supports its development and urges continuous industry involvement in this program moving forward.

Best regards,

Cynthia Pezze

Vice President, Global Technology Development and Chief Technology Officer  
Westinghouse Electric Company LLC

CC: John Kelly  
Alice Caponiti

U.S. Department of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy