

Westinghouse Team Challenged to Meet Korea Plant Initial Fuel Loading Schedule

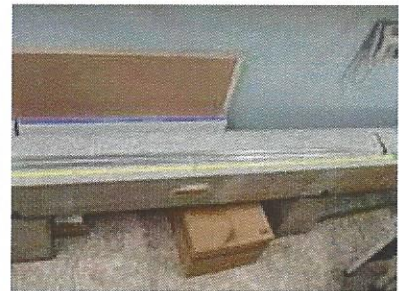
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It's a conversation no project manager wants to have with their crew, especially one already on a tight schedule. Despite an already aggressive schedule, the delivery date for a major deliverable to Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power Company (KHNP) needed to be moved up three months ahead of the expected issuance of an operating license.



Shin Wolsong 2 (SWN-2), an OPR1000 plant based on Westinghouse System 80/System 80+ technology, began construction in 2008 with issuance of the operating license anticipated for June 2012. However, the operating license for the South Korean facility became entangled in inspections and reviews by the country's regulatory bodies related to counterfeit cables from a South Korean supplier. This caused an almost two and a half year delay in issuing the operating license and suspended Westinghouse's final shipment of Neutron Source Assemblies (NSAs)

NSAs, which are loaded into the reactor vessel during the initial fuel loading, provide the means to initiate criticality of the reactor core for the first time following fuel loading and the completion of the post-core hot functional test program. This sets the stage for raising the core to full power during startup testing of the unit.



"In June 2014, the Korean regulatory authorities gave strong reason to believe that the operating license would be issued in mid-November of 2014. KHNP insisted that the NSAs be delivered on-site by November 12 so fuel loading could be performed as soon as the operating license was issued, preventing a downstream day-for-day delay in the startup of SWN-2," said Bernd von Kutzleben, SWN-1&2 project manager, Korea Projects. "The Westinghouse team had to somehow figure out how to get the NSAs delivered to site three months ahead of the supplier's delivery date."



The Westinghouse team relied on careful planning and scheduling, creative thinking, contingency plans and close working relationships with suppliers to obtain and deliver the replacements to support the owner's expedited schedule. All parties involved clearly understood the urgency of delivering the product in time for scheduled fuel loading safely and with high quality.

"New plant projects are always susceptible to gaps in interface planning and communications between multiple functions and locations. I was especially impressed with the teamwork and coordinated effort between Westinghouse employees at the Shin Wolsong site, at the on-shore office (Seoul, Korea), at our off-shore offices (Windsor, Connecticut and Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania) and with our outside vendors," said Kevin Kutchenriter, director of Korea Projects. "Delighting KHNP through teamwork, communication, and flawless delivery was the key achievement of this team."

Internal and external teams and individuals involved in the accomplishment include:

- Rolf Eickelberg, program manager UAE/Barakah delivery
- Kwang-Won Kim, SWN-1&2 on-shore project manager
- Bernd von Kutzleben, SWN-1&2 project manager
- Thomas Morello, product engineer, UAE/Barakah delivery
- Korea and UAE Equipment Engineering
- Westinghouse Logistics
- Westinghouse New Plants Project Quality
- Frontier Technology Corp.

Joni Falascino, vice president of NPP Project Delivery Systems, said, "Extra effort and dedication from individuals like these are the reason why Westinghouse continues to be a global competitor in delivering the world's premier nuclear power technology."