



December 21, 2001
NRC:01:053

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Memo of Understanding Concerning a Cooperative Research Program on Advanced Cladding Alloy M5

Framatome ANP has held a series of discussions with you concerning the development of a memo of understanding for the conduct of a research program to observe the behavior of selected advanced cladding materials under accident conditions. I have enclosed a copy of the latest draft of this memo of understanding, which has been accepted by Framatome ANP, and which I believe the NRC (Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research and Office of General Counsel) will find acceptable as well. This version supercedes the prior drafts sent to you on September 27 and November 15, 2001.

If this document is found to be satisfactory, Framatome ANP is prepared to meet with you to develop further plans for the conduct of this research program.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. F. Mallay".

James F. Mallay, Director
Regulatory Affairs

lmk

Attachment

cc: J. S. Cushing
Project No. 693

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A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between the
U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
and
FRAMATOME ANP, Inc.
on a
COOPERATIVE NUCLEAR FUEL RESEARCH PROGRAM

PURPOSE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Framatome ANP, Inc., a U.S. Corporation, (FRA-ANP) each conduct research on nuclear fuel. Although the goals of this research may differ, the research testing methods developed and applied and the technical information obtained can be useful to both parties. The purpose of the cooperative research program is for the NRC to gain additional knowledge on the behavior of advanced cladding alloy M5 under loss of coolant accident (LOCA) conditions. Therefore, the NRC and FRA-ANP agree to cooperate in establishing and managing a fuel research program.

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the NRC and FRA-ANP describes the conditions under which a cooperative research program will be conducted.

PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

Article 1 -- Responsibilities of the Parties

1.1 The NRC and FRA-ANP will establish and manage a cooperative research program. A management board, consisting of representatives from each party, will be responsible for integrating the needs of both parties, setting priorities, and providing direction to the organization conducting the research related to the behavior of alloy M5 cladding material under accident conditions. The NRC representatives shall be the Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research and the Director of the Division of Safety Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness. The FRA-ANP representatives shall be the Director of R&D, the Director of Regulatory Affairs and Senior Technical Consultant Dr. H. A. Hassan. The members of the management board will develop and manage plans for the research program described in this MOU. They shall meet as necessary, but at least annually, to:

- 1) Evaluate potential added tests that could be addressed within the fuel research program specified in this MOU.
- 2) Determine priorities for the research program.
- 3) Review the progress of the research program.
- 4) Provide direction on the conduct of the research program, including possible termination.

- 1.2 Management board decisions will be reached by mutual agreement.
- 1.3 Technical oversight of the research program will be conducted by a technical advisory group (TAG) consisting of two representatives from each party (NRC and FRA-ANP). The TAG shall be responsible for making the decisions necessary to implement the directives of the management board. TAG decisions will be reached by mutual agreement.
- 1.4 The management board may terminate the cooperative research program at any time due to unsatisfactory contractor performance, lack of funds, changes in priority, or any other reason.

Article 2 -- Guidelines for Cooperative Research

- 2.1 The cooperative research program shall be structured to avoid any conflict of interest among the parties. In addition, the objective of this cooperative program shall be limited to obtaining defined data and information.
- 2.2 Results from the cooperative research program shall be shared by both parties. The management board shall determine whether the results of any test not specifically performed to simulate an accident--such as a materials characterization test--reveals proprietary information, including data that could be used to duplicate the process used to develop this particular alloy, and must be withheld from public disclosure.
- 2.3 The content of any publication proposed by either party shall be reviewed by the management board.
- 2.4 All patent rights related to the M5 material supplied by FRA-ANP, including but not limited to its composition and manufacturing, shall remain assigned to FRA-ANP. FRA-ANP may generate and provide certain data to the TAG to assist in developing the testing program; any data designated by FRA-ANP as being proprietary shall be handled and safeguarded accordingly.
- 2.5 Both parties shall have access to the test facilities, separately or jointly, and shall have the right to review the data being generated, to interview personnel conducting the research, to audit the processes and procedures used in the program, and to observe tests in progress.

Article 3 -- Outline of Cooperative Research Program

3.1 Scope

The scope of the tests performed in the research program will be defined by the TAG with concurrence by the management board. As provided in Section 2.4, data provided by FRA-ANP may be used to adjust the scope of the testing program, as appropriate.

3.2 Objectives

The objective of the cooperative research program is to obtain data not previously available on unirradiated M5 cladding material concerning certain physical and mechanical properties associated with accident-related environments.

3.3 Technical Requirements

Detailed technical requirements will be developed by the contractor or operating agent responsible for each phase of the research and documented in a detailed plan. These plans shall be consistent with the direction provided by the management board.

The detailed plans, including test procedures, for the cooperative research program will be reviewed and approved by the TAG.

3.4 Resource Commitments

FRA-ANP shall supply unirradiated M5 tubing specimens in a quantity and at a time that supports the approved cooperative research program. The NRC shall be responsible for the payment of the contractor or operating agent responsible for conducting the research program, as described in the approved plan.

At the conclusion of the testing, all unused M5 tubing shall be returned to FRA-ANP. Specimens used in the testing program shall either be returned to FRA-ANP or shall be archived and suitably protected to prevent unauthorized use.

Article 4 -- Cooperation with Other Organizations

If mutually agreeable, other organizations may be invited to participate in the cooperative program. The TAG will work with representatives of those other organizations that have agreed to participate to define the scope and conduct of the research program. It is understood that the Electric Power Research Institute will be invited to participate by providing technical advice and to provide certain support services and analyses as mutually agreed.

Article 5 -- Terms of the Agreement

- 5.1 This agreement shall be effective when signed and dated by both parties, and shall remain in effect for a period of two years.
- 5.2 This MOU may be modified or extended by the management board, if approved by the signatories.
- 5.3 Either party may terminate this agreement at any time by giving a two-month written notice.
- 5.4 All data generated subsequent to the withdrawal of a party shall be subject to the provisions of this MOU at the time of termination.

- 5.5 It is understood that the NRC may enter into substantially similar agreements with other organizations to perform the same tests on other advanced alloy claddings.

AGREEMENT

Ashok C. Thadani, Director
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Roger S. Reynolds, Director
Research and Development
Framatome ANP, Inc.