



FRAMATOME ANP

An AREVA and Siemens Company

FRAMATOME ANP, Inc.

May 31, 2002
NRC:02:028

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Mr. Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Framatome ANP's Intent Concerning Design Certification Discussions with the NRC

Framatome ANP is pleased to respond to your request for further information regarding design certification for its SWR 1000, a boiling water reactor with passive safety features. As discussed with the NRC, this advanced design includes a number of features for improved safety, performance, and efficiency. On March 13, 2002, Framatome ANP held an initial discussion with the NRC concerning the design certification process for new nuclear power plant designs. In addition to discussing process issues, Framatome presented its SWR 1000 design. To aid in the development of its resource plans, the NRC requested that Framatome formally indicate the company's intentions regarding design certification. This letter responds to that request and provides an initial framework for future interactions with the NRC.

Framatome ANP intends to submit an application for the design certification of the SWR 1000 by the end of 2005. We intend to begin submitting materials for pre-application review in mid-2004. Since certification of the SWR 1000 will be consistent with current regulations, we anticipate the pre-application review period to be approximately 18 months.

Between now and mid-2004, we will be preparing materials for the pre-application review. We also expect to hold several meetings with the NRC during this period. These meetings would continue our discussions on the identification and clarification of issues related to the certification process and on matters of particular importance to the SWR 1000 design. For example, we need to confirm the adequacy of the research and testing already completed and currently planned. Specifically, we are proceeding with preparations for the meeting scheduled for August 15, 2002. We believe these discussions will be of mutual benefit as we move through the design certification process.

Additionally, since the SWR 1000 is a light water reactor with passive safety features, it is expected that the experience and precedents associated with the review of the design with passive safety features previously certified by NRC will provide a basis for resolution of passive safety features issues which may be identified for the SWR 1000 during the review period.

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To assure that the NRC has up-to-date information on which to base its resource planning, Framatome ANP intends to update the information contained in this letter if significant changes occur. We look forward to working with the Commission and the NRC staff during this process.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James F. Mallay" followed by a stylized flourish that appears to be "ecp".

James F. Mallay, Director
Regulatory Affairs

cc: D. G. Holland
J. E. Lyons
Document Control Desk
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