FRAMATOME ANP

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FRAMATOME ANP, Inc.

November 25, 2002
NRC:02:059

Document Control Desk
ATTN. Chief, Planning, Program and Management Support Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

10 CFR Part 21 Notification of a Calculation Error in a Critical Power Correlation

This letter provides notification of a reportable defect in accordance with 10 CFR Part 21. This situation was reported to the NRC Operations Center by facsimile at 13:08 PDT on November 22, 2002. Report No. 39395 was assigned to the notification by the Duty Officer.

The defect consists of an error in calculating the axial factor in Framatome ANP's SPCB critical power correlation

The affected utilities have been informed, and the planned actions and actions already taken to address the issue are provided in the attachment to this letter.

Very truly yours,

James F. Mallay, Director
Regulatory Affairs

Enclosure

cc: D. G. Holland
Project 693

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Reportable Defect

(i.) Name and address of the individual informing the Commission

Jerald S. Holm, Manager, Product Licensing, Framatome ANP, 2101 Horn Rapids Road, Richland, WA 99352.

(ii.) Identification of the facility, the activity, or the basic component supplied for such facility or such activity within the United States which fails to comply or contains a defect.

The calculation of the minimum critical power ratio (MCPR) using the SPCB CPR correlation in the MICROBURN-B2 and MICROBURN-B codes which are used in the POWERPLEX incore monitoring systems.

(iii.) Identification of the firm constructing the facility or supplying the basic component which fails to comply or contains a defect.

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(iv.) Nature of the defect or failure to comply and the safety hazard which is created or could be created by such a defect or failure to comply.

The MCPR calculation using the SPCB correlation in the MICROBURN-B2 and MICROBURN-B codes and associated POWERPLEX® monitoring software contains an error. The error is in the determination of the axial adjustment factor for use in the SPCB CHF correlation. This can lead to non-conservative CPR calculations when using the SPCB CPR correlation and potentially a violation of the MCPR Technical Specification operating limit since the POWERPLEX incore monitoring code may under predict the MCPR for comparison to the operating limit. This error in MICROBURN-B2 and MICROBURN-B had no impact on the operating limit itself.

(v.) The date on which the information of such defect or failure to comply was obtained.

Condition Report 10128 was prepared on September 25, 2002, and identified as a deviation.

(vi.) In the case of a basic component which fails to comply, the number and the location of all such components in use at, supplied for, or being supplied for one or more facilities or activities subject to the regulations in this part.

The POWERPLEX incore monitoring software in use at River Bend, Grand Gulf, and LaSalle Unit 1 is impacted by this error.

(vii.) The corrective action which has been, is being, or will be taken; the name of the individual or organization responsible for the action; and the length of time that has been or will be taken to complete the action.

The affected plants have all been notified. As a compensatory measure it was recommended that the operating limit be reduced by 2% at the affected plants until the affected codes could be corrected and installed in the POWERPLEX incore monitoring software. The MICROBURN-B2 and MICROBURN-B codes have subsequently corrected and installed in the POWERPLEX incore monitoring software at each affected plant. The plants are currently operating with correct versions of the software. Each affected plant has determined that they did not exceed the Technical Specification operating limit due to this error.

(viii.) Any advice related to the defect or failure to comply about the facility, activity, or basic component that has been, is being, or will be given to purchasers or licensees.

See (vii) above.

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