

December 23, 2002

Mr. David Emond
Chef du Bureau de Contrôle des Chaudières Nucléaires
Direction Régionale de l'Industrie de la Recherche et de l'Environnement
15-17, avenue Jean Bertin
BP 16610 - 21066 Dijon France

Dear Mr. Emond:

On December 2 and 3, 2002, you hosted the technical exchange between your staff and staff from the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. The main purpose of this technical exchange was to discuss the regulatory framework in France under which primary reactor system components are designed and fabricated, specifically as it applies to the design and fabrication of reactor vessel heads. We undertook this activity to support the NRC's inspection of the replacement of the North Anna, Unit 2 reactor vessel head with a head manufactured to the French RCC-M Code.

As the leader of the NRC's team, I want to thank you for your efforts and the efforts of your staff at making this a successful exchange of information. Please extend my thanks, and the thanks of my team, to Mssr. Jean-Charles Van-Hoecke, Thierry Chrupek, Yves LaPostolle, Franck Marzorati, Philippe Chartier, and other members of your staff that contributed to this effort.

Based on our discussions, the NRC staff has a better understanding of the regulatory controls and oversight used in France for the design and fabrication of reactor vessel components. This understanding significantly contributed to the success of the meeting the NRC had with Framatome ANP on December 4 and 5, 2002. We will continue to use the information we gained from our discussions with you and your staff, and from Framatome ANP, as we proceed with our inspection activities related to the replacement of the North Anna, Unit 2 reactor vessel head.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John A. Nakoski, Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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