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REGION II
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August 26, 2003

Framatome ANP, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. Robert Freeman, Manager
Mount Athos Road Site
Lynchburg Manufacturing Facility
P. O. Box 11646
Lynchburg, VA 24506-1646

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 70-1201/2003-02

Dear Mr. Freeman:

This refers to the inspections conducted from July 28 - July 31, 2003, at the Mount Athos Road Facility. The purpose of the inspection was to determine whether activities authorized by the license were conducted safely and in accordance with NRC requirements. At the conclusion of the inspection, the findings were discussed with those members of your staff identified in the report.

Areas examined during the inspection are identified in the report. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observation of activities in progress.

Within the scope of the inspection, violations or deviations were not identified.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David A. Ayres, Chief
Fuel Facilities Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No. 70-1201
License No. SNM-1168

Enclosure: (See Page 2)

Enclosure: NRC Inspection Report

cc w/encl:
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 Lynchburg Manufacturing Facility
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OFFICE	RII:DNMS	RII:DNMS			
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DATE	08/19/2003	08/26/2003			
E-MAIL COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION II

Docket No.: 70-1201

License No.: SNM-1168

Report No.: 70-1201/2003-002

Licensee: Framatome ANP

Facility: Mount Athos Road Facility (MARF)

Location: Lynchburg, VA

Dates: July 28 - July 31, 2003

Inspector: O. López, Fuel Facility Inspector

Approved by: D. A. Ayres, Chief
Fuel Facilities Branch
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Enclosure

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Framatome ANP NRC Inspection Report 70-1201/2003-02

This routine unannounced inspection focused on the observations and evaluation of the licensee's plant operations and fire safety program. The inspection involved observation of work activities, a review of selected records, and interviews with plant personnel. The report covers a four day inspection effort by one regional fuel facility inspector.

Based upon the results of this inspection, the licensee's plant operations and fire safety program were acceptable. The inspection identified the following aspects of the program as outlined below:

Plant Operations

- Plant activities were performed in accordance with regulatory requirements and license conditions. Housekeeping was adequate to not adversely affect the radiological safety or the facility emergency egress. Safety concerns were effectively communicated to managers.
- Written procedures were accessible to operators and included proper nuclear criticality safety considerations. The operating procedures were up-to-date and operators were trained in their use.
- The Criticality Alarm Monitoring System provided detection for all fissionable material areas and the system was tested adequately.

Fire Protection

- Fire protection and detection equipment observed was adequately maintained. Housekeeping was adequate to ensure fire hazards were minimized. The inspector confirmed that a sufficient number of fire brigade members were qualified to perform their emergency response functions.

Attachment:

List of Persons Contacted
Inspection Procedures Used
List of Items Opened, Closed, Discussed
List of Acronyms Used

REPORT DETAILS

1. Summary of Plant Status

This report covered the efforts of one regional inspector during a four days period. Fuel manufacturing processes and routine Service Equipment Refurbishment Facility (SERF) operations were ongoing at Framatome during the inspection period. There were no plant upsets or unusual operational occurrences during the inspection.

2. Plant Operations (Inspection Procedure (IP) 88020)

a. Management and Administrative Practices (O3.01) Plant Activities (O3.03)

(1) Inspection Scope

The inspector verified that activities and housekeeping on the fuel manufacturing area and SERF were performed safely and in accordance with license requirements. The inspector verified that safety controls were available and in good condition in the process area. The inspector interviewed plant personnel to verify that safety problems were effectively communicated to management.

(2) Observations and Findings

During the plant tours, the inspector noted that criticality posting, radiological signs, and procedures were properly posted or available to the operators. The inspector did not observe any issue where the housekeeping could affect the radiological safety or emergency egress of the facility. The inspector observed that plant personnel working in radiological control areas wore dosimetry and the proper personal protective equipment.

The inspector examined the fuel process and storage areas and noted that operators complied with approved written Nuclear Criticality Safety (NCS) limits and controls. The inspector also observed proper spacing practices and controls in storage locations. Discussions with operation personnel illustrated the proper understanding of procedural and posting requirements. The inspector observed that equipment used to control airborne radioactivity in the SERF areas was in proper working condition.

Operators interviewed by the inspector stated that they speak to their supervisors directly and express their concerns. Also the supervisors stated that safety is the first topic discussed in production meetings.

(3) Conclusions

Plant activities were performed in accordance with regulatory requirements and license conditions. Housekeeping was adequate to not adversely affect the radiological safety or the facility emergency egress. Safety concerns were effectively communicated to managers.

b. Operating Procedures (O3.06)

(1) Inspection Scope

The inspector reviewed procedures for selected process areas to verify that NCS requirements were included as specified in NCS evaluations. The inspector also verified that operators were trained in new procedures before they were put in use.

(2) Observations and Findings

The inspector noted that reviewed procedures adequately identified NCS requirements and safety controls. The inspector also noted that procedures were reviewed and updated at the required frequency. The inspector observed that procedures present in the process area were the most current revisions and were approved by the appropriate safety management.

Based on interviews and documentation reviewed, the inspector determined that operators were trained on new procedures prior to their use.

(3) Conclusions

Written procedures were accessible to operators and included proper NCS considerations. The operating procedures were up-to-date and operators were trained in their use.

c. NCS Inspections, Audits, and Investigation (O3.09)

(1) Inspection Scope

The inspector reviewed the latest NCS audit to verify compliance with license requirements.

(2) Observations and Findings

The scope of the NCS audit was the Criticality Safety Training Program, compliance with administrative controls, and double contingency. The audit consisted of walk-down inspections and documentation reviews. No nuclear criticality safety issues were identified.

(3) Conclusions

The licensee met the requirements for reviewing their NCS program and performed adequate inspections of the process areas.

d. Configuration Control (O3.04)
Criticality Alarm Monitoring System (O3.10)

(1) Inspection Scope

The inspector verified that a monitoring/alarm system was provided for all fissionable material areas and confirmed that the system was tested to confirm reliability and operability.

(2) Observations and Findings

The inspector determined, based on discussions with the licensee, that a monitoring/ alarm system was provided for all fissionable material areas. The inspector reviewed calibration and functional test records for the critical monitoring system. The inspector also reviewed functionally records for the un-interruptible power supply (UPS). No problems were identified. The inspector noted that the current system drawing matched the existing layout of the criticality monitoring system.

On Monday July 28, 2003, around 5:00 p.m. the facility lost power for about 2.5 hours due to a thunderstorm. The UPS worked as expected; all the alarm systems remained in working condition.

(3) Conclusions

The Criticality Alarm Monitoring System was provided for all fissionable material areas and the system was tested adequately.

3. Fire Safety (IP 88055)

a. Fire Safety of Process, equipment, and Storage Areas (O4.04)
Fire Protection Systems (O4.05)
Pre-Fire Plan (O4.07)

(1) Inspection Scope

The inspector performed walk-down inspections, reviewed test results, and interviewed plant personnel about the inspection, testing, and maintenance (ITM) of key fire safety systems and equipment important to safety.

(b) Observations and Findings

The inspector conducted walk down inspections of the fuel manufacturing and SERF areas. Portable fire extinguishers were charged to the normal operating zones and no visible damage was noted. The inspector observed fire doors throughout the facility and found them clear of debris and in proper working condition. The inspector noted that housekeeping was adequate to ensure emergency egress pathways were clear of debris. The inspector performed walk down of plant areas surrounding the fuel process and SERF buildings. The inspector noted that the areas were kept free of significant amount of transient combustibles large enough to be a fire exposure hazard.

The inspector noted that smoke detectors were installed in the fuel unloading area, and the licensee had started using city water for the fire systems. The inspector reviewed functional test records for selected fire protection systems including smoke and heat detectors, fire hydrants, fire alarm system, and sprinkler systems. The inspector determined that the observed ITM for the fire protection system was adequate.

The inspector reviewed training documentation for the fire brigade members. The inspector verified that individuals who did not receive the training were removed from the active status on the fire brigade. The inspector concluded that the fire brigade training was adequate. The inspector reviewed the facility Pre-Fire plan and noted that it was not up-to-date. The inspector brought the observation to the licensee's attention and they stated that the issue will be addressed.

(c) Conclusions

Fire protection and detection equipment observed by the inspector was adequately maintained. Housekeeping was adequate to ensure fire hazards were minimized. The inspector confirmed that a sufficient number of fire brigade members were qualified to perform their emergency response functions.

4. Exit Interview

The inspection scope and results were summarized on July 31, 2003, with those persons indicated in the Attachment. Although proprietary documents and processes were occasionally reviewed during this inspection, the proprietary information was not included in this report. Dissenting comments were not received from the licensee.

ATTACHMENT

1. **PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONS CONTACTED**

Licensee

*M. Powers, Manager, Material Control and Accounting
D. White, Industrial Safety Technician
M. Minor, Supervisor, Uranium Product Center
T. Osborne, Radiation Protection Technician
M. Moore, Manager, Facilities and Maintenance
S. Carter, Supervisor, Security and Transportation
S. Newsom, Supervisor, Radiation Safety
*R. Sharky, Manager, Environmental, Health, Safety & Licensing
*R. Freeman, Site Plant Manager, Mount Athos Road Facility

Other licensee employees contacted included engineers, technicians, and office personnel.

*Attended exit meeting on July 31, 2002

2. **INSPECTION PROCEDURES USED**

IP 88020 Regional Nuclear Criticality Safety Inspection Program
IP 88055 Fire Protection

3. **LIST OF ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED**

<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Description</u>
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None

4. **LIST OF ACRONYMS USED**

IP	Inspection Procedure
ITM	Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance
MARF	Mount Athos Road Facility (Site)
NCS	Nuclear Criticality Safety
SERF	Service Equipment Refurbishment Facility
UPS	Un-interruptible Power Supply