



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 15, 1998

Mr. Philippe Vernier, Manager  
Quality Division  
FRAMATOME  
Tour Framatome  
1 Place de la Coupole  
92084 Paris-La Défense Cedex  
France

**SUBJECT: NRC ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSED REVISION TO FRAMATOME TOPICAL  
REPORT (TAC # MA1057)**

Dear Mr. Vernier:

We have completed our review of the proposed Revision 9 to the FRAMATOME quality assurance topical report, FRA - QP/85 0782 NP, "FRAMATOME Quality Assurance Program (For United States Applications)," submitted with your letter dated February 2, 1998. We provided a list of questions to Ms. Régine Perrin of your staff by facsimile on March 30, 1998, to obtain clarification on certain changes in your submittal. We received a response to these questions by E-mail and facsimile on April 14, 1998. Ms. Régine Perrin also sent us a copy of the associated corrected topical report pages on April 17, 1998.

These submittals described revisions made to take into account recent changes in your Nuclear Business organization. This included the establishment of three operational divisions, each of which is managed as an independent organization with all necessary resources under its control, and a small Central Unit in charge of assuring that common general policies are defined and implemented throughout the Nuclear Business organization. Furthermore, the duties and responsibilities of the "Quality Unit" are split between Quality Management and the Quality Departments of the operational divisions.

Key points addressed in this revision include: 1) Quality Management is in charge of the Nuclear Business QA program and its compliance with the commitments of the Topical Report, 2) Quality Management reports to the Nuclear Business General Manager, 3) Quality Management is responsible for the QA training program definition and for QA program assessment, 4) Division Quality Departments are responsible for assuring the quality of their division activities, including surveillance of activities performed either by the Division involved or by its supplier, 5) Division Quality Departments have stop work authority and work cannot resume without their concurrence, and 6) the Quality Department reports to the Division Manager.

Based on our review of your February 2, 1998, submittal and the supplementary information received from Ms. Régine Perrin on April 14, 1998, and April 17, 1998, we find that Revision 9 of your topical report continues to meet the requirements of Appendix B to 10 CFR 50, and is, therefore, acceptable.

May 15, 1998

Please replace our previous acceptance letter with a copy of this letter, identify the report as FRA - QP/85 0782 NP, Revision 9A, and forward a copy to all users, and to the NRC in accordance with 10 CFR 50.4(b)(7)(ii). Pursuant to this regulation, and to ensure that future submittals are properly processed, please submit your correspondence to: Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Document Control Desk, Washington, DC 20555.

Any questions on this subject should be addressed to the NRC staff reviewer, Ray Smith, at (301) 415-2620.

Sincerely,



Suzanne C. Black, Chief  
Quality Assurance, Vendor Inspection  
and Maintenance Branch  
Division of Reactor Controls and Human Factors  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc:

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