



FRAMATOME ANP

An AREVA and Siemens Company

FRAMATOME ANP, Inc.

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NRC:03:030

Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
ATTN: Ralph O. Meyer, Senior Technical Advisor  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

**Continuing Tests on M5 Cladding at ANL**

Framatome ANP was informed on May 2 that oxidation tests performed at ANL on "etched" samples of M5 cladding showed a potential similarity to the oxide characteristics of alloy E-110. We found this result of considerable interest and would like additional detail concerning specimen preparation, testing, and other related information.

One aspect of receiving this news bothers us, however. Our TAG members, Bert Dunn and Garry Garner, were not informed that these tests were being conducted. Framatome ANP is anxious to cooperate fully with the NRC and ANL in advancing our knowledge of zirconium alloys.

We have contributed our advanced alloy M5 in good faith but are disappointed that the conditions of the document governing our participation in this cooperative research program are not being respected. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) clearly provides for the scope of testing to be defined by the TAG with the concurrence of the Management Board. This agreement was not followed in this instance.

As you appreciate, open communication is a necessary element to a successful working relationship and will be essential for the continued participation of Framatome ANP.

Again, we appreciate being informed of these results. We are anxious to receive further details in the near future.

Very truly yours,

James F. Mallay, Director  
Regulatory Affairs

Roger S. Reynolds, Director  
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cc: B. M. Dunn  
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Project 728

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**FRAMATOME ANP**

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