



**FRAMATOME ANP**

An AREVA and Siemens Company

**FRAMATOME ANP, Inc.**

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Document Control Desk  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

**Interim Report Concerning an Evaluation of a Deviation Pursuant to 10CFR21.21(a)(2)**

Ref.: 1. Letter, James F. Mallay (Framatome ANP) to Document Control Desk (NRC),  
"Deviation Associated with Swelling in Certain Control Rods," NRC:04:026,  
May 25, 2004.

Enclosed is an interim report concerning an evaluation of a deviation under the provisions of Part 21.

Framatome ANP previously reported in Reference 1 that an evaluation had been initiated to determine the adequacy of its model to predict the swelling behavior of absorber material in certain control assemblies. Specifically, the purpose of the evaluation is to establish a conservative, safe, service lifetime of the extended life control rod assemblies used in B&W-designed plants.

This same model will also be used to assess the useful life of the rod cluster control assemblies provided by Framatome ANP to Westinghouse-designed plants as replacements for the original control assemblies. Since the current exposure of these RCCAs is much less than the ELCRAs, they will not be affected by any model change for a number of years.

The enclosed report summarizes the actions being taken to assess the behavior of the silver-indium-cadmium absorber and whether swelling could be a concern over the next several years. No customer has observed or reported any adverse experience with the control assemblies supplied by Framatome ANP. Since none of the control assemblies are approaching their original design lifetime, there is no reason to believe a substantial safety hazard exists.

Very truly yours,

James F. Mallay, Director  
Regulatory Affairs

Enclosure

cc: M. C. Honcharik  
Project 728

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