

FRAMATOME ANP, Inc.

December 2, 2004
NRC:04:066

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

Framatome ANP has initiated planning to pursue design certification of our evolutionary EPR design in accordance with 10CFR52. We have held informal discussions with the management of NRR concerning the design certification process. This letter confirms our intention to proceed with the effort starting in February 2005.

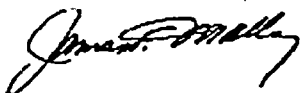
Our expectations for fiscal 2005 include a series of presentations to the NRC on the design features of the EPR and discussions on several specific technical matters, including plans for the submittal of topical reports beginning in February 2006. These discussions would be followed by the submittal of a design description document, which would be for information only.

A more detailed explanation of our plans and a proposed schedule of meetings will be provided to the NRC in February 2005. This plan will permit the NRC and Framatome ANP to agree on resource allocations needed to conduct the necessary pre-application reviews of the EPR and other interactions. It will also permit us to develop milestone-driven plans for the ensuing years.

Our intent is to complete the pre-application process so that an application for design certification can be made in 2008.

Because of the evolutionary nature of the EPR design, we do not anticipate requirements for new testing or research activities. We note that the EPR design was approved by the French Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Directorate (DGSNR) in September 2004. The Finnish Safety Authority (STUK) is expected to issue a construction license in February 2005. We would be pleased to provide any information to the NRC concerning these approvals, as appropriate.

Very truly yours,



James F. Mallay, Director
Regulatory Affairs

cc: J. F. Williams
Project 728

1010