



FRAMATOME ANP

An AREVA and Siemens Company

FRAMATOME ANP, Inc.

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Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Closure of Interim Report Concerning a Deviation Associated with Swelling in Certain Control Rods

Ref. 1: Letter, James F. Mallay (Framatome ANP) to Document Control Desk (NRC), "Interim Report Concerning an Evaluation of a Deviation Pursuant to 10CFR21.21(a)(2)," NRC:04:036, July 22, 2004.

An interim report was made to the NRC concerning a deviation associated with swelling in certain control rods (see Reference 1). The final evaluation of this situation has been completed and Framatome ANP has concluded that the deviation is not reportable under 10 CFR 21.

Based on poolside inspections of all 61 control rod assemblies of this type at Oconee 3, Framatome ANP has determined that there is no indication of absorber swelling in extended life control rod assemblies (ELCRAs) used in B&W-designed plants. The poolside inspections were conducted on control rods that had the longest service life of all B&W-designed plants, or about 17 effective full power years. Based on the results of the inspections, Framatome ANP determined that the ELCRAs can operate for at least two additional cycles.

Framatome ANP will continue to assess the behavior of the absorber and whether swelling could be a concern over the next several years. We are currently participating in an industry program sponsored by EPRI that will investigate the swelling phenomena.

Very truly yours,

James F. Mallay, Director
Regulatory Affairs

cc: M. C. Honcharik
Project 728

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