



December 20, 2007  
NRC:07:077

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

**Atypical Fuel Rod Bow Observed at North Anna Unit 1**

While performing routine visual inspections at Dominion's North Anna Unit 1 during the core off load, it was observed that several fuel assemblies contained a limited number of fuel rods that exhibited atypical fuel rod bow. The bow was sufficient to result in significant closure of the channel between fuel rods, and in some cases the bow results in contact, or near contact, with an adjacent fuel rod.

The attachment to this letter provides an overview of the issue. AREVA NP Inc. (AREVA NP) considers the information contained in the enclosed attachment to be proprietary. As required by 10 CFR 2.390(b), an affidavit is enclosed to support the withholding of the information from public disclosure.

In a telephone call on December 12, 2007 between Holly Cruz, NRC Project Manager, and Gayle Elliott, AREVA NP Licensing Manager, AREVA NP requested a meeting with the NRC in early January to further discuss the results of the evaluations and to provide a forum to address any questions or comments from the NRC.

If you have any questions related to this subject, please contact Ms. Gayle Elliott at (434) 832-3347 or by e-mail at [gayle.elliott@areva.com](mailto:gayle.elliott@areva.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronnie L. Gardner".

Ronnie L. Gardner, Manager  
Site Operations and Corporate Regulatory Affairs  
AREVA NP Inc.

Enclosures

cc: H. D. Cruz  
Project 728

A001  
NRR

**AREVA NP INC.**  
An AREVA and Siemens company

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requested qualifies under 10 CFR 2.390(a)(4) "Trade secrets and commercial or financial information."

6. The following criteria are customarily applied by AREVA NP to determine whether information should be classified as proprietary:

- (a) The information reveals details of AREVA NP's research and development plans and programs or their results.
- (b) Use of the information by a competitor would permit the competitor to significantly reduce its expenditures, in time or resources, to design, produce, or market a similar product or service.
- (c) The information includes test data or analytical techniques concerning a process, methodology, or component, the application of which results in a competitive advantage for AREVA NP.
- (d) The information reveals certain distinguishing aspects of a process, methodology, or component, the exclusive use of which provides a competitive advantage for AREVA NP in product optimization or marketability.
- (e) The information is vital to a competitive advantage held by AREVA NP, would be helpful to competitors to AREVA NP, and would likely cause substantial harm to the competitive position of AREVA NP.

The information in the Document is considered proprietary for the reasons set forth in paragraphs 6(b) and 6(c) above.

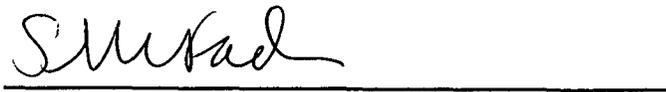
7. In accordance with AREVA NP's policies governing the protection and control of information, proprietary information contained in this Document have been made available, on a limited basis, to others outside AREVA NP only as required and under suitable agreement providing for nondisclosure and limited use of the information.

8. AREVA NP policy requires that proprietary information be kept in a secured file or area and distributed on a need-to-know basis.

9. The foregoing statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Sherry L. McFaden", written over a horizontal line.

SUBSCRIBED before me this 20<sup>th</sup>  
day of December, 2007.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Sherry L. McFaden", written over a horizontal line.

Sherry L. McFaden  
NOTARY PUBLIC, COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 10/31/10  
Reg. # 7079129

