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

Distribution of ANP-10280P, Revision 2, "Poolside Postirradiation Examination of MOX Lead Assemblies"

Ref. 1: Letter, James F. Mallay (Framatome ANP) to Document Control Desk (NRC), "Publication of BAW-10238(P)(A), Revision 1, 'MOX Fuel Design Report'," NRC:04:054, September 21, 2004.

Ref. 2: Letter, Ronnie L. Gardner (AREVA NP Inc.) to Document Control Desk (NRC), "Distribution of ANP-10280P, Revision 0, 'Poolside Postirradiation Examination of MOX Lead Assemblies'," NRC:07:024, June 26, 2007.

Paragraph 3.7.1 of the safety evaluation of BAW-10238(P)(A), Revision 1, (Reference 1) discusses the inspection and testing program of the MOX lead test assemblies that were supplied to Duke Energy's Catawba Nuclear Station, Unit 1, for irradiation starting in spring of 2005. The inspection and testing program includes poolside postirradiation examinations that are to be performed after each irradiation cycle of the lead assemblies.

The first cycle of irradiation of the lead assemblies was completed in the fall of 2006. The results of the poolside postirradiation examination were provided to the NRC in Reference 2. All characteristics of the lead assemblies were found to be within the criteria for reinsertion for a second cycle of irradiation.

The second cycle of irradiation of the lead assemblies was completed in the spring of 2008. The lead assemblies were examined at poolside after ultrasonic cleaning during the refueling outage. With one exception, all characteristics of the fuel assemblies were found to be within the established acceptance criteria. The exception was that the fuel assembly axial growth exceeded the criterion.

Enclosed are proprietary and non-proprietary versions of report ANP-10280P, Revision 2, "Poolside Postirradiation Examination of MOX Lead Assemblies," for information. This report documents the results of the second cycle of poolside postirradiation examinations.

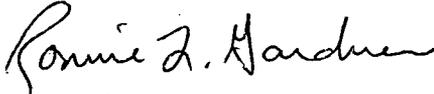
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AREVA NP INC.
An AREVA and Siemens company

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AREVA NP considers some of the material contained in the enclosed document 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.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosure

cc: P. M. Clifford
H. D. Cruz
J. F. Stang, Jr.
R. Subbaratnum
Project 728

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:

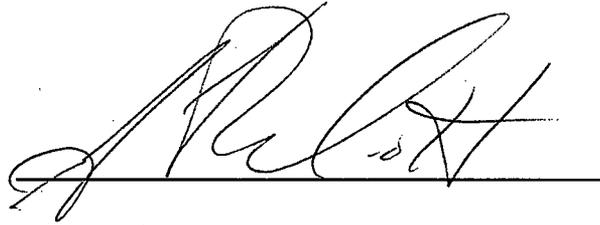
- (a) The information reveals details of AREVA NP's research and development plans and programs or their results.
- (b) Use of the information by a competitor would permit the competitor to significantly reduce its expenditures, in time or resources, to design, produce, or market a similar product or 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 'S. L. McFaden', written over a horizontal line.

SUBSCRIBED before me this 29th
day of May, 2009.

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

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

