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Clarification of Fuel Assembly Handling Criteria

Ref. 1: EMF-92-116(P)(A), Revision 0, "Generic Mechanical Design Criteria for PWR Fuel Designs," February 1999.

Ref. 2: Certificate of Compliance No. 71-9319 for the Model No. MAP-12/MAP-13 Packages

The design criteria in Reference 1 (Section 3.3.9) states that the fuel assembly design must withstand all normal axial loads from shipping and fuel handling operations without permanent deformation. In order to demonstrate compliance, AREVA NP Inc. (AREVA NP) uses either a stress analysis or testing.

For some shipping container designs, a static axial load of 2.5g is sufficient to demonstrate compliance. However, for some other AREVA NP shipping container designs (including the recently-developed MAP-12, Reference 2), a larger load can be delivered to the fuel in the axial direction during shipment. Fuel shipped in these containers is qualified and validated at a higher axial shipping load (4.0g). Thus, while the design criterion remains unchanged for fuel assembly handling and shipping, the axial load applied to demonstrate compliance may be greater than or equal to the 2.5g specified in the topical depending upon the shipping container criteria.

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.

Sincerely,

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

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

cc: H. D. Cruz
R. Subbaratnum
Project 728

AREVA NP INC.

An AREVA and Siemens company

3315 Old Forest Road, P.O. Box 10935, Lynchburg, VA 24506-0935
Tel.: 434 832 3000 - Fax: 434 832 3840 - www.areva.com

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