



CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 23, 2018

Mr. Gary Peters, Director
Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Framatome, Inc.
3315 Old Forest Road
Lynchburg, VA 24501

Dear Mr. Peters:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter dated March 6, 2018, requesting a fee exemption under Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 170.11(a)(1)(ii) for NRC review of Topical Report (TR) ANP-10337P, "PWR Fuel Assembly Structural Response to Externally Applied Dynamic Excitations."

The NRC has established regulations for the granting of fee exemptions under 10 CFR 170.11, "Exemptions," which may be applied for in accordance with 10 CFR 170.5, "Communications." The NRC staff has reviewed your request based on the following regulations, 10 CFR 170.11(a)(1)(ii) and 10 CFR 170.11(a)(13):

10 CFR 170.11(a) No application fees, license fees, renewal fees, inspection fees, or special project fees shall be required for: (1) A special project that is a request/report submitted to the NRC— . . . (ii) When the NRC, at the time the request/report is submitted, plans to use the information in response to an NRC request from the Office Director level or above to resolve an identified safety, safeguards, or environmental issue, or to assist the NRC in generic regulatory improvements or efforts (e.g. rules, regulatory guides, regulations, policy statements, generic letters, or bulletins).

10 CFR 170.11(a)(13) All fee exemption requests must be submitted in writing to the Chief Financial Officer in accordance with § 170.5¹, and the Chief Financial Officer will grant or deny such requests in writing.

The NRC Information Notice (IN) 2012-09 identifies generic issues related to the effects of irradiation on fuel assembly grid strength under externally applied (seismic and loss of coolant accident (LOCA)) forces. TR ANP-10337P provides an approach to address the irradiation effects on fuel assembly performance under seismic and LOCA applied loads identified in IN 2012-09. TR ANP-10337P holistically addresses all of the issues and advances the science with new analytical models, experiments on irradiated fuel assembly components, new test protocols, and new acceptance criteria. The approaches described in TR ANP-10337P are state-of-the-art and will be used to update NRC guidance (e.g., NUREG-0800, Chapter 4.2 Appendix A).

¹ 10 CFR 170.5 provides that "All communications concerning the regulations in this part should be addressed to the NRC's Chief Financial Officer, either by mail to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555- 0001; by hand delivery to the NRC's offices at 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland; or, where practicable, by electronic submission, for example, via Electronic Information Exchange, or CD-ROM."

The NRC staff concludes that the review of TR ANP-10337P, "PWR Fuel Assembly Structural Response to Externally Applied Dynamic Excitations" fulfills the criteria required by 10 CFR 170.11(a)(1)(ii) and 10 CFR 170.11(a)(13); therefore, the fee waiver request is approved. If you have any technical questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Jonathan Rowley at (301) 415-4053. Please contact Mr. William Blaney, of my staff, at (301) 415-5092 for any fee-related questions.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Maureen E. Wylie
Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: LETTER TO GARY PETERS, FRAMATOME IN RESPONSE TO A FEE WAIVER DATED MARCH 6, 2018 (ANP-10337P); RESPONSE LETTER DATED April 23, 2018

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