framatome

January 18, 2019
TJT:19:003

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Director, Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Gentlemen:

Subject: **Request to Postpone Initiation of Decommissioning of a Facility at Framatome Inc.'s Richland, Washington Site; License No. SNM-1227, Docket No. 70-1257**

The purpose of this correspondence is to request a delay in the initiation of decommissioning Framatome's Uranyl-nitrate storage building (UNB) located on the Richland Washington site. This delay is being requested in accordance with provisions in the NRC's decommissioning "timeliness rule" in 10 CFR 70.38, and specifically the criteria in 70.38(f).

The UNB was built and operated in support of our Blended Low Enriched Uranium (BLEU) process where we downloaded UN solutions from LR-230 shipping containers and stored it pending use in Framatome's commercial nuclear fuel manufacturing process.

Following the conclusion of the BLEU UN processing, the facility was used intermittently for other principle activities until March of 2017. Since then no principle activities have been conducted in the building although portions of the building have been actively used for other purposes.

This request to postpone decommissioning the UNB is based on Framtome's anticipated commissioning and commercial use of a new solid uranium recovery facility (SURF) later this year. The UNB will become an integral part of the SURF operation in 2020. The uranium recovered in SURF will be used to support Framatome fuel fabrication mission at the Richland site.

Accordingly, Framatome does not feel that the public interest is served in requiring the pursuit of decommissioning of this facility because it will become an integral part of our uranium recovery business in the relatively near future.

We appreciate the NRC's consideration of this request. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me on 509-375-8550.

Very truly yours,

T. J. Tate, Manager
Environmental, Health, Safety & Licensing

Framatome Inc.
2101 Horn Rapids Road
Richland, WA 99354
Tel: (509) 375-8100

www.framatome.com

c: Kevin M. Ramsey
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Fuel Manufacturing Branch, Mail Stop 4 A60
Division of Fuel Cycle Safety and Safeguards
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

c: CJ Royce
CD Mannning