



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

September 29, 2022

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

SUBJECT: THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S LETTER REGARDING FRAMATOME REVISED RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, ON TOPICAL REPORT, BAW-10227P, REVISION 2, "EVALUATION OF ADVANCED CLADDING AND STRUCTURAL MATERIAL (M5) IN PWR REACTOR FUEL" (EPID L-2019-TOP-0054)

Dear Mr. Peters:

By letter dated August 31, 2022 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Package Accession No. ML22249A173), Framatome, Inc. (Framatome) provided revised responses to the request for additional information (RAI) questions dated November 24, 2021 (ADAMS Package Accession No. ML21336A462), regarding Topical Report (TR), BAW-10227P, Revision 2, "Evaluation of Advanced Cladding and Structural Material (M5) in PWR [Pressurized Water Reactor] Reactor Fuel." Since Framatome revised the responses to the RAI questions 8-10 per the letter dated August 31, 2022, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff will follow the process outlined in the LIC-500, "Topical Report Process" (ADAMS Accession No. ML20247G279). The NRC staff plans to issue an updated draft safety evaluation (SE) to incorporate the revised RAI responses.

Based on the NRC staff workload and priority for Framatome ongoing TR reviews, the NRC staff had re-baselined the review schedule to issue the revised draft SE by January 20, 2023, and final SE by February 28, 2023. However, in an e-mail (ADAMS Accession No. ML22265A109), dated September 20, 2022, Framatome requested that the NRC prioritize the review of TR BAW-10227P, Revision 2 (M5), to support its customer needs. The NRC staff will revise the current schedule to accommodate Framatome's prioritization request, and to facilitate the NRC staff's review of the new information submitted on August 31, 2022. In the new schedule, the NRC staff plans to issue the revised draft SE by November 10, 2022, and final SE by December 19, 2022, as annotated in the enclosed revised schedule. The revised schedule assumes that Framatome will complete its proprietary review of the draft SE and provide a response by November 30, 2022.

G. Peters

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If you have any questions regarding the TR review, please contact me at 301-415-6695 or via email at Ngola.Otto@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ngola A. Otto, Project Manager
Licensing Projects Branch
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 99902041

Enclosure:
As stated

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Revised Review Schedule for the Framatome, Inc.

**Topical Report BAW-10227P, Revision 2, “Evaluation of Advanced Cladding and
Structural Material (M5) in PWR Reactor Fuel”**

Docket No. 99902041

EPID L-2019-TOP-0054

Milestone	Current Date	Revised Date
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Issues Revised Draft Safety Evaluation (SE)	January 20, 2023	November 10, 2022
Framatome Proprietary Review of Draft SE	February 6, 2023	November 30, 2022
NRC Issues Final SE	February 28, 2023	December 19, 2022

SUBJECT: THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION'S LETTER REGARDING FRAMATOME REVISED RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, ON TOPICAL REPORT, BAW-10227P, REVISION 2, "EVALUATION OF ADVANCED CLADDING AND STRUCTURAL MATERIAL (M5) IN PWR REACTOR FUEL" (EPID L-2019-TOP-0054) DATED SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

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ADAMS Accession Number: ML22255A177

***via email**

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