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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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703RD MEETING

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS

(ACRS)

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OPEN SESSION

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THURSDAY

MARCH 2, 2023

+ + + + +

The Advisory Committee met via video-teleconference at 8:30 a.m., Joy L. Rempe, Chairman, presiding.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- JOY L. REMPE, Chairman
- WALTER L. KIRCHNER, Vice Chairman
- DAVID A. PETTI, Member-at-Large
- RONALD G. BALLINGER, Member
- VICKI M. BIER, Member
- CHARLES H. BROWN, JR., Member
- VESNA B. DIMITRIJEVIC, Member
- GREGORY H. HALNON, Member

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JOSE A. MARCH-LEUBA, Member

MATTHEW W. SUNSERI, Member

ACRS CONSULTANTS:

DENNIS BLEY

STEPHEN SCHULTZ

DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL:

MATTHEW SNODDERLY

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(8:30 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN REMPE: Good morning. It's 8:30 on the East Coast. I hear an echo that is going to disappear now. This meeting will now come to order.

This is the first day of the 703rd meeting of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. I am Joy Rempe, the Chairman of the ACRS. Other members in attendance are Ron Ballinger, Vicki Bier, Vesna Dimitrijevic, Greg Halnon, Walt Kirchner, Jose March-Leuba, Dave Petti, and Matt Sunseri. We expect to be joined by Member Charles Brown soon.

We do have a quorum and today the Committee is meeting in person and virtually. The ACRS was established by the Atomic Energy Act and is governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The ACRS Section of the U.S. NRC public website provides information about the history of this Committee and documents such as our charter, bylaws, Federal Register Notices for meetings, letter reports, and transcripts of all full and subcommittee meetings, including all slides presented at these meetings. The Committee provides its advice on safety matters to the Commission through its publicly available letter reports.

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1 The Federal Notice announcing this meeting
2 was published on February 14, 2023. This announcement
3 provided a meeting agenda as well as instructions for
4 interested parties to submit written comments or
5 request opportunities to address the Committee.

6 The Designated Federal Officer for today's
7 meeting is Mr. Mike Snodderly. A communications
8 channel has been opened to allow members of the public
9 to monitor the open portions of the meeting.

10 The ACRS invites members of the public to
11 use the MS Teams link to view slides and other
12 discussion materials during these open sessions. The
13 MS Teams link information was placed in the Federal
14 Register Notice and the agenda on the ACRS public
15 website.

16 We have received no written comments or
17 requests to make oral statements from members of the
18 public regarding today's session. However, the
19 meeting will be periodically opened to accept comments
20 from participants listening to our meetings. Written
21 comments may also be forwarded to Mr. Mike Snodderly.

22 During today's meeting the Committee will
23 consider the following topics: Framatome topical
24 report on increased enrichment for pressurized water
25 reactors, and then we'll be following that with our

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1 planning and procedures and meetings. Note that
2 portions of the Framatome topical report discussion
3 may be closed, as stated in the agenda.

4 A transcript of the open portions of the
5 meetings is being kept and it is requested that
6 speakers identify themselves and speak with sufficient
7 clarity and volume so they can be readily heard.
8 Additionally, participants should mute themselves when
9 not speaking.

10 Before we start the first topic today I
11 will ask members if they have any opening remarks.

12 Hearing none, I then would like to ask
13 Member March-Leuba to lead us in our first topic for
14 today's meeting. Jose.

15 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: Thank you. The topic
16 as you can see on the screen is the increased
17 enrichment for PWRs by Framatome.

18 This is a very important topic and I think
19 everybody has done a good job in carrying it to
20 fruition. It is going to increase the enrichment from
21 the current approved 5 percent to a higher level.

22 Without much ado I am going to allow the
23 Staff, MJ Ross-Lee to make introductory remarks. MJ,
24 you can go ahead.

25 MS. ROSS-LEE: Good morning and thank you.

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1 My name is MJ Ross-Lee. I am the Deputy Division
2 Director for the Division of Safety Systems in NRR.
3 You will hear from my staff today as part of the
4 presentation.

5 This topical report is a first of the kind
6 for increasing enrichment beyond 5 weight percent U-
7 235 in PWRs. This topical report is applicable only
8 to current burnup limits and does not address any
9 effects of higher burnup.

10 I would like to commend Framatome for
11 doing their part in submitting a high-quality topical
12 report and responding to RAIs in a timely manner which
13 aids in an efficient and effective review.

14 The topical report topics span nearly
15 every aspect of fuel performance and design extending
16 the enrichment limit for over 20 topical reports.

17 With that, I will turn it back over to
18 Staff. Thank you.

19 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: Thank you, MJ. Now
20 I would like to give the floor to Framatome. I
21 believe Gayle Elliott is going to give us some
22 introductory remarks and then introduce the
23 presenters. Gayle.

24 MS. ELLIOTT: Good morning. I am Gayle
25 Elliott from Framatome. I am the Director of

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1 Licensing & Reg Affairs here.

2 I would first like to welcome to all who
3 are attending our discussion today on Framatome's
4 topical report on increased enrichment for PWRs, both
5 the ACRS Full Committee, the NRC, and our own folks
6 here at Framatome.

7 This topical report is the result of the
8 efforts of our field organizations, Michelle Guzzardo,
9 Keith Maupin, Jim Hoerner, and Morris Byram, and our
10 Licensing & Reg Affairs organization.

11 I would just like to say that their time
12 and efforts resulted in a quality submittal to the NRC
13 in January of 2021 and NRC's review of the report in
14 approximately two years, so thank you all for your
15 efforts in this.

16 I would also like to recognize the NRC
17 reviewers for their efforts to perform a detailed
18 review of the report and the timely and efficient
19 manner in which they performed their review.

20 This topical report was successfully
21 reviewed in about two years, which I think is
22 certainly reasonable for the manner in which this
23 topical report (audio interference).

24 I would just note Framatome's objective is
25 to give innovation and improved performance methods to

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1 the industry and with our submittal and the NRC's
2 review is as cohesive and efficient as the review on
3 this topical report then we are able to meet that
4 objective, so thank you NRC reviewers for that.

5 As we continue to work towards quality
6 reports for all of their submittals I would like to
7 encourage the NRC to continue to develop your
8 reviewers to be able to perform audits for
9 understanding that result in a draft essay during the
10 audit or the short duration afterwards.

11 I understand that some of our topical
12 reports are more complex than others, but we have
13 found that if there is a large time lapse between
14 audits and discussions with our subject matter experts
15 then context and understanding may not be as distinct.

16 So for this topical report again thank you
17 all, both Framatome and NRC Staff for the quality
18 report that was submitted and the efficient review
19 that was performed at the NRC. That concludes my
20 remarks.

21 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: Okay. So now we'll
22 have the presentation by Framatome. It's either
23 Michelle or Morris.

24 MR. BYRAM: Yes.

25 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: We can see your

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1 slides.

2 MR. BYRAM: Yes. Can everyone hear me?

3 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: Yes, we can.

4 MR. BYRAM: Great. This is Morris Byram.

5 I have the slides up on the screen for everyone. I

6 apologize, I am on the phone only today. I have

7 technical difficulties, probably not enough bandwidth

8 for what I have going on. Do we have the slides up?

9 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: We have the slides
10 up.

11 MR. BYRAM: Okay, great. Okay. This is

12 Morris Byram and I am Product Manager for Framatome

13 for this topical report and Michelle Guzzardo is with

14 me today and she is going to be speaking to the slides

15 after I am finished.

16 Okay, on Slide 2 we are going to talk the

17 agenda, key milestones, advanced codes and methods

18 topical reports review. We are going to talk about

19 the approval requests and applicable fuel designs.

20 Michelle then will start with the major topic

21 evaluations and deliver the summary.

22 First, Slide 3, the key milestones for

23 this topical report pre-submittal meeting was April

24 2020. We submitted the ANP-10353 for review in

25 January of 2021. It was accepted for review in March

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1 of 2021.

2 The Audit for Understanding was held in
3 September of 2021. RAIs were received September 2021.
4 We submitted the RAI responses in January of 2022,
5 another audit occurred on the ARITA parameters that
6 might be impacted in August of 2022, and we received
7 the draft SE in December 2022.

8 Next slide, please. What you see on this
9 slide before you are the Framatome PWR codes and
10 methods that will be used with the increased
11 enrichment topical report for submittals.

12 Notice, please, that grouped in the boxes
13 here of the different types of analyses, LOCA, non-
14 LOCA, neutronics, fuel performance, core TH, N5
15 Framatome cladding, the rod bow and the fuel
16 mechanical and structural topical reports.

17 All of these topical reports are approved
18 except for the ARITA topical report over in the non-
19 LOCA box. That is close to being approved and that is
20 part of the discussion that we had in the last audit
21 that we had for this topical report of how they work
22 together and the inputs that are, the parameter of
23 uncertainties that are possible affected.

24 The blue in the boxes indicate the older
25 codes. The green background indicates the newer

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1 codes. Notice in the LOCA area one of the latest to
2 be approved is GALILEO in LOCA, ANP-10349, PA REV-0.

3 Also, the N5 Framatome cladding was
4 revised, REV-2. If you will notice the arrows and the
5 orange lines between boxes indicates the flow of
6 information between the approved topical reports.

7 Note that not all of the connections are
8 noted here, just the major ones. So are there any
9 questions on this slide?

10 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: If you don't hear
11 anything for five seconds keep going.

12 MR. BYRAM: Okay. The next slide, the
13 approval requests for a list for increased enrichment
14 above 5 percent U-235, there is no change that was
15 requested for the current license burnup limits.

16 It supports fuel designs of GAIA 17x17,
17 HTP 15x15 for the Westinghouse plants, and HTP 14x14
18 and 16x16 for the combustion engineering plants.

19 Now the next slide Michelle is going to
20 start with the evaluations. Michelle.

21 MS. GUZZARDO: Thank you, Morris. As you
22 can see on the first slide here -- We are on Slide 6,
23 Morris.

24 MR. BYRAM: Okay.

25 MS. GUZZARDO: The neutronics discipline

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1 included mostly for the ARCADIA code package, the
2 ARCADIA code package consists of several things but
3 mostly the APOLLO2 code, which is the cross-section
4 generator, and ARTEMIS, which is the nodal simulator.

5 So to extend the range of the ARCADIA code
6 package additional critical experiments were modeled
7 and comparisons made to the measurement which extended
8 that range of enrichments to greater than 5 weight
9 percent.

10 We also discussed a bit of the impact on
11 the codes and how the codes can handle the chromium
12 doped and chromium-coated cladding materials within
13 the advanced, the ATF arena.

14 Colorsets were performed in the original
15 ARCADIA evaluations. These are 4x1/4 assembly
16 comparisons that tested some of the ARTEMIS features
17 and we added some of these colorsets with fuels
18 greater than 5 weight percent and we combined the
19 results with the existing colorset calculations to
20 show that the ARCADIA uncertainty analyses remain
21 applicable.

22 We also looked at the detector behavior
23 sensitivity and lifetime to show that they remain
24 applicable for greater than 5 weight percent U-235
25 since detectors are an important part of the

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1 measurement system in the cores.

2 The neutronic summary says that the
3 ARCADIA code system is acceptable for use of fuel
4 enrichments greater than 5 weight percent U-235.

5 The next discipline we looked at was
6 thermal hydraulics. This includes the critical heat
7 flux correlations, the COBRA-FLX code, and the fuel
8 rod bow penalties.

9 We found that the thermal hydraulic
10 components shown above are applicable to fuels with
11 greater than 5 weight percent U-235 since the
12 correlations and the property used within the codes
13 are dependent of enrichment.

14 The mechanical disciplines contain quite
15 a few different sub-disciplines, if you will, and
16 these include the materials the fuel rod thermal
17 mechanical code, GALILEO, different fuel designs,
18 external loads, statistical hold down, cladding
19 collapse, and fuel rod bow.

20 Each of these disciplines was looked at
21 thoroughly and evaluated. As you can see on this
22 slide the materials and methodologies generally depend
23 on the argument for fast fluence.

24 The fast fluence does decrease as U-235
25 enrichment increases. So for the same burnup limit

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1 the current end of life fluence and fluxes are
2 bounding with the lower enriched fuel.

3 Though the remaining parameters and
4 methodologies that are not dependent on fast fluence
5 or flux are independent of U-235 enrichment except for
6 the GALILEO code.

7 The GALILEO code has several benchmarks,
8 which included fuel center line melt benchmarks,
9 fission gas release benchmarks, internal pressure, rod
10 volume, things like that, and those benchmarks contain
11 data that bound the enrichment that is being
12 requested.

13 So for the mechanical discipline all
14 methodologies and materials that were evaluated are
15 acceptable for greater than 5 weight percent
16 enrichment.

17 The next methodology that we -- The next
18 discipline we looked at was the non-LOCA category and
19 this included ARITA and AREA. The ARITA methodology
20 incorporates the ARCADIA code package, decay heat
21 models, the COBRA-FLX code, the ARTEMIS, fuel rod
22 model, and GALILEO, as well as the S-RELAP5 code.

23 All of these were shown to be applicable
24 to fuel with greater than 5 weight percent enrichment
25 or they are not dependent on enrichment.

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1 We also evaluated neutronics and thermal
2 key parameters and noted that the generation of these
3 parameters were not affected by enrichment. Basically
4 what I mean by that no code changes were required to
5 evaluate these parameters with greater than 5 weight
6 percent fuel.

7 There was an audit held with the NRC in
8 August of 2022 in which the uncertainties associated
9 with some of these key parameters could be affected by
10 increased enrichment.

11 That discussion led to Limitation and
12 Condition 1, which you have to look at the parameters
13 that have to be justified before their uncertainty
14 treatment can be used in the ARITA process, and I
15 believe the NRC will talk more about that in their
16 presentation.

17 The next methodology in the non-LOCA
18 discipline is AREA, it's rod eject methodology. This
19 methodology includes ARCADIA, GALILEO, COBRA-FLX, and
20 the S-RELAP code, I'm sorry, RELAP5 code.

21 All of these again were shown to be
22 applicable to fuel with greater than 5 weight percent
23 or they are not dependent on enrichment.

24 Similar to ARITA, the neutronics and
25 thermal key parameters were reviewed and generations

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1 of these parameters were not affected by enrichment.

2 We pointed out that the methodology for
3 AREA was designed to be consistent with the regulatory
4 guidance and is flexible enough to handle any changes
5 that come with that regulatory guidance, regulatory
6 guidance being REG Guide 1.236, and we found that that
7 guidance was applicable for enrichments greater than
8 5 weight percent.

9 The next discipline is LOCA and -- small
10 break LOCA and realistic large break LOCA. Both of
11 these methodologies rely on GALILEO and S-RELAP5.
12 Again, both of these codes were shown to be
13 independent of enrichment or already applicable.

14 For both small break LOCA and realistic
15 large break LOCA the evaluation models were reviewed
16 for important fuel-related phenomena and is shown to
17 remain valid for fuel with greater than 5 weight
18 percent U-235.

19 It was noted that the small break LOCA
20 evaluation model used a specific enrichment within the
21 GALILEO input and that was updated to be more generic
22 for greater than 5 weight percent U-235 with no impact
23 on results. It was also noted that for LOCA the
24 relevant 10 CFR 50.46 limits remain applicable.

25 There are several decay heat models used

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1 within the methodologies that were discussed. We
2 evaluated these models using TRITON to determine the
3 best estimate effects of decay heat with U-235
4 enrichment and all current decay heat models used
5 within the methodologies remain valid for use with
6 fuels having enrichments greater than 5 weight percent
7 U-235.

8 So in summary, all the codes and methods
9 discussed in ANP-10353 are acceptable for use with
10 fuel enrichments greater than 5 weight percent U-235.

11 MEMBER HALNON: Michelle, this is Greg
12 Halnon. Could you -- back on-- you don't have to go
13 back to any slides, but statistical hold-down, can you
14 give me a brief description of what that is and how
15 the enrichment is affected by it?

16 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: It's Slide 8.

17 MS. GUZZARDO: Yes.

18 MEMBER HALNON: I'm not familiar with the
19 term.

20 MS. GUZZARDO: Jim is on the line and Jim
21 is our mechanical expert. Jim, do you have -- would
22 you like to say some words on this?

23 MR. HOERNER: Michelle, this is not my
24 discipline, it's pure mechanical. I am thermal
25 mechanical.

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1 MS. GUZZARDO: Okay.

2 MR. HOERNER: Buck, can you help with this
3 one?

4 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: Maybe, Brandon, do
5 you know what it is? Can the staff help and give us
6 a line?

7 MEMBER HALNON: I didn't mean to ask a
8 stumping question.

9 MR. BARNER: I can talk to this one. It's
10 the assembly hold-down analysis. It's just the --

11 MEMBER HALNON: Who is talking?

12 MR. BARNER: Oh, sorry. This is Buck
13 Barner.

14 MEMBER HALNON: Very good. I'm sorry. I
15 interrupted you because I wasn't familiar with your
16 voice. Could you try the definition again?

17 MR. BARNER: Yes. This is Buck Barner.
18 The statistical hold-down analysis is the assembly
19 hold-down analysis, so it's independent of enrichment.
20 It's a mechanical analysis for --

21 MEMBER HALNON: Okay. So it's not
22 affected by enrichment?

23 MR. BARNER: Correct.

24 MEMBER HALNON: Okay. That will suffice.
25 I will look it up for more detail later. Thanks.

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1 MR. BARNER: Yes.

2 MS. GUZZARDO: Thank you, Buck.

3 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: Just in principle,
4 the weight of the assembly changes by a little bit,
5 you're replacing 238 by 235 --

6 (Simultaneous speaking.)

7 MEMBER HALNON: Well, there is spring
8 tension, I mean compression.

9 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: Yes.

10 MEMBER HALNON: There is mechanical hold
11 downs, there is, you know, expansion of the whole
12 assembly. I can see where it could be affected, but
13 I just didn't understand how that was factored into
14 this decision.

15 MEMBER KIRCHNER: It's the rods. The rods
16 are held by the --

17 (Simultaneous speaking.)

18 CHAIRMAN REMPE: Folks, use your mics.

19 MEMBER KIRCHNER: -- and so you wouldn't
20 expect the enrichment to have any impact on that kind
21 of mechanical behavior. As Jose said there is
22 negligible changed in weight and the same flow horses
23 and other structural loads are the same essentially.

24 MEMBER HALNON: Okay. Thanks, Walt.

25 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: Okay. I believe we

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1 have reached the end of the presentation. Does
2 Framatome want to make additional comments?

3 Michelle?

4 MS. GUZZARDO: I'm sorry. What was the
5 question?

6 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: I believe you reached
7 the end of your presentation before we asked you the
8 question, correct?

9 MS. GUZZARDO: Yes, sir.

10 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: And do you want to
11 make -- anybody at Framatome want to make additional
12 comments?

13 MS. GUZZARDO: No, I'm good.

14 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: Okay. So with that
15 we will transfer the microphone to the staff on this.
16 Switch slides.

17 MEMBER KIRCHNER: Jose, may I ask one
18 clarification question of Framatome?

19 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: You certainly may.

20 MEMBER KIRCHNER: You listed in your slide
21 deck the different field geometries that the methods
22 are applicable for. Is GAIA 17x17 a successor to HTP
23 17x17? I am not sure I know your nomenclature for
24 your fuel bundles. Is it of generic applicability to
25 17x17 bundles?

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1 MS. GUZZARDO: Both the GAIA and the HTP
2 designs are currently in use. I don't know if that
3 answers your question or not.

4 MEMBER KIRCHNER: Well I was curious
5 whether this methodology is also applicable then to an
6 HTP 17x17 fuel configuration.

7 MS. GUZZARDO: We would have to provide
8 additional justification to go there because we are
9 only including the four designs that were listed.

10 MEMBER KIRCHNER: Thank you.

11 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: Since I was in the
12 Subcommittee and I know a little more about it, can
13 you explain to us what would be the process that you
14 will use to, for example, license HTP 17x17? The SE
15 allows you to do that, correct?

16 MS. GUZZARDO: Yes.

17 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: And this process, can
18 you explain to us what process you will follow?

19 MS. GUZZARDO: All right. So we have a
20 process that is contained within a different topical
21 report that we would follow to extend the range of
22 applicability to do it a different fuel design.

23 Morris, do you have more to say on that?

24 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: We'll handle it from
25 there during this presentation -- I will leave you.

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1 Anymore questions for Framatome?

2 MR. BYRAM: Jose, this is Morris Byram.
3 We can get back with you on that question and answer
4 to that.

5 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: No, I think -- I was
6 giving you kind of a leading question that the SE, the
7 Safety Evaluations report, allows you to extend this
8 to other fuels and there is a procedure to do that.
9 The staff will discuss that. You don't need to follow
10 up.

11 So let's have the staff slides. Brandon,
12 is that you?

13 MR. WISE: Yes, sir.

14 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: State your name.

15 MR. WISE: I am Brandon Wise with the
16 NRC's Nuclear Methods and Fuel Analysis Branch. I
17 will be presenting the staff safety evaluation for
18 Topical Report AMP-10353, Increased Enrichment for
19 PWRs.

20 Next slide, please. I will begin
21 discussing the background of why industry is pursuing
22 increased enrichment as well as some specifics related
23 to Framatome and its topical report.

24 I will also discuss some concurrent
25 topical report reviews as well as the codes used to

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1 justify the increased applicability for enrichment
2 based off of reports.

3 I will then discuss some applicable
4 regulations and guidance and then move into the
5 technical topics associated with increased enrichment.
6 These include neutronics, thermal hydraulics,
7 mechanical, non-LOCA, LOCA, decay heat, and then I
8 will conclude the presentation with a discussion on
9 limitations and conditions and the staff's final
10 safety conclusion.

11 Next slide, please. For the background,
12 industry is pursuing higher burnup and increased fuel
13 enrichment for cycle optimization and more economical
14 core designs.

15 Specifically, Framatome is seeking to
16 expand the range of applicability of enrichment for
17 their codes and methods to a value greater than 5
18 weight percent and this topical report is applicable
19 only to current burnup limits.

20 Next slide, please. This increased
21 enrichment topical report was reviewed concurrently
22 with two other topical reports. The first is the
23 Framatome N5 topical report.

24 The staff determined for the reasons that
25 we'll discuss in the mechanical section that there was

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1 no significant impact on the review, on the concurrent
2 review of these two topical reports.

3 As for ARITA, the staff did determine some
4 concerns about doing a concurrent review and this
5 resulted in Limitation and Condition Number 1, which
6 we discussed towards the end of the presentation.

7 Next slide, please. The codes Framatome
8 used to justify the increased applicability for the
9 enrichment for their codes and methods include ARCADIA
10 for the neutronics and thermal hydraulics analysis,
11 GALILEO for fuel performance, ARITA for non-LOCA
12 transient analysis and non-rod injection, AREA for rod
13 injection, SCALE for decay heat, which includes TRITON
14 and ORIGEN, and ORFEO-GAIA and ORFEO-NMGRID for
15 critical heat flux.

16 This topical report serves as a supplement
17 to each of these codes and does not impact the current
18 functionality or applications of these codes in
19 operating reactors.

20 Next slide, please. So some of the most
21 important regulations considered in this topical
22 report were 10 CFR 50.46 and 50.68. These are the
23 ECCS acceptance criteria and 50.68 for the limit on
24 increased enrichment. GDC-10 was also considered.

25 Additional regulations can be found in the

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1 SRP sections as well as additional guidance. These
2 SRP sections include fuel system design, nuclear
3 design, thermal and hydraulic design, and transient
4 and accident analysis methods review.

5 The final document on this list is not a
6 regulation or a guidance, but is an Oak Ridge report
7 that provided the staff with insight on trends
8 associated with increasing enrichment in PWR fuel.

9 Next slide, please.

10 MEMBER KIRCHNER: You turned it off.
11 Brandon, I don't think this is proprietary. I think
12 it's more from NRC regulations and guidance. Is it
13 62.5, 62,500 megawatt-days per metric ton, is that the
14 current limit that you use?

15 MR. WISE: That was --

16 (Simultaneous speaking.)

17 MEMBER KIRCHNER: In your earlier slide
18 you said there is, you know, within existing burnup
19 limits.

20 MR. WISE: That was not defined anywhere.
21 I am uncertain. Maybe some of my colleagues could
22 chime in.

23 MEMBER KIRCHNER: Well, okay.

24 MR. LEHNING: This is John Lehning from
25 the NRC staff. So the burnup limits that are in place

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1 now they typically arise in connection with topical
2 reports or other approvals like that and they are not
3 typically coming from things like regulations
4 basically, yes.

5 MEMBER KIRCHNER: Yes. Well you didn't
6 list your Reg Guide on rod injection, which probably
7 is the one that right now --

8 MR. WISE: That --

9 MEMBER KIRCHNER: What would be necessary
10 for the NRC to raise the limits or would this be done
11 on an applicant-by-applicant basis? Is there
12 anything, so to speak, in regulation that would
13 prevent any of the vendors from going beyond your
14 nominal limits, I will call them that?

15 If there isn't a fast limit, I think it's
16 62.5 megawatt-days, 62,500 megawatt-days per a metric
17 ton, whatever that is, 85 days, from the Reg Guide --
18 reactive answers an accident.

19 MEMBER BALLINGER: I think we're going to
20 have a, we've got another report that we're reviewing
21 on the burnup issue.

22 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: From Framatome, it's
23 coming --

24 MEMBER BALLINGER: Sometime this summer.
25 I forget when we're scheduled --

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1 (Simultaneous speaking.)

2 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: Later in the summer
3 because it depends more heavily on the ARITA
4 methodology than this one.

5 MEMBER BALLINGER: Yes.

6 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: And so they need to
7 have ARITA approved first, which is happening I
8 believe in June, I think thereabouts.

9 MEMBER KIRCHNER: But I guess what I am
10 asking the staff is is there a de facto limit right
11 now, what are you looking for from applicants to go
12 on.

13 Obviously they are increasing enrichment,
14 they've got an existing design, so they're not
15 changing the core designs per se, they are looking at
16 burnup, obviously, because that's where the economics
17 come in.

18 So if you would just address that as to
19 what the staff would be looking for for --

20 MR. WISE: Right now --

21 MEMBER KIRCHNER: -- for increased burnup.

22 MR. WISE: Right now we are considering
23 everything on a case-specific basis. As more topical
24 reports and applications come in that would lead the
25 NRC to consider more wide-scale and generic changes to

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1 think like guidance and regulation. As you might
2 aware, there is increased enrichment rulemaking going
3 on. I think that sort of addresses your question.

4 As far as applicability of like guidance,
5 like the rod injection, that same guidance, what we
6 are looking for is the applicability of the limits
7 stated in that guidance at higher enrichments done by
8 the, we want justification from the vendors.

9 Right now that Reg Guide does have a limit
10 of 5 percent. However, because there is no changes
11 proposed to the acceptance criteria or the fuel damage
12 criteria or anything like that, we have determined
13 that it would be applicable at increased enrichments.

14 MR. LEHNING: This Is John Lehning from
15 the staff again. Just to add to Brandon's good
16 response to that I would just say that there are, even
17 right now, I would say Framatome's report, I think the
18 Subcommittee knows already that that's coming in the
19 future.

20 There are other vendor reviews for
21 increased enrichment that even underway now. We are
22 not going to talk about those in this meeting. There
23 are proprietary aspects to that.

24 But, you know, obviously, the dispersal of
25 the fuel is one of the key issues. ACRS well

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1 understands, you know, the importance of that. So
2 that is one of the key things of how to avoid that and
3 how to avoid some of the other considerations where
4 there is maybe not a full amount of information yet.

5 So there is no rule that says it can't,
6 the enrichment can't be increased right now, even
7 before this increased enrichment rulemaking, but it is
8 a little bit more challenging and maybe vendors have
9 to do different things in order to show us with the
10 current knowledge that they are able to address what
11 are the issues and operate safely.

12 So that's probably about what I could say
13 in this session.

14 MEMBER KIRCHNER: Thank you.

15 MR. WISE: Okay. Moving into the
16 neutronics section. Framatome's neutronics code is
17 ARCADIA and the demonstrated applicability at
18 increased enrichment for that code using three
19 justifications.

20 The first was performing a criticality
21 benchmark experiment comparison. The second was a
22 colorset of calculated pin powers for multi-assembly
23 problems.

24 These colorsets varied in enrichment,
25 gadolinium loading, and burnups which span the entire

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1 range of increased enrichment as well as what would be
2 expected for gadolinium loading and, again, current
3 burnup limits.

4 Framatome determined that there is no
5 significant change in uncertainty at these increased
6 fuel enrichments for these parameters. Framatome also
7 considered an evaluation on the effective increased
8 enrichment for detectors and the detector lifetime and
9 determined that there is no significant impact of
10 detector functionality or lifetime. Next slide,
11 please.

12 MEMBER BALLINGER: This is Ron Ballinger.
13 I am going to ask a dumb question, which I thought was
14 dumb when I asked it the last time but it turns out
15 it's maybe not so dumb.

16 I cannot for the life of me find out where
17 the word "colorset" came from. No matter what, I just
18 could not -- Nobody could tell me.

19 MR. WISE: Unfortunately, I don't have an
20 answer for you either. That was before my time.

21 MEMBER BALLINGER: Okay. Case closed.

22 MEMBER PETTI: That's a physics question.

23 MEMBER BALLINGER: Nobody can answer it.

24 MEMBER PETTI: Well I had someone explain
25 it to me.

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1 MEMBER BALLINGER: Oh, you did?

2 MEMBER PETTI: Yes.

3 CHAIRMAN REMPE: Turn on your mic and
4 identify yourself.

5 MEMBER PETTI: Sorry. No, no, no, I just
6 don't remember. I just remember him explaining -- You
7 know when they do the color maps and the little boxes
8 and like the burnups and they color code them --

9 MEMBER BALLINGER: Yes.

10 MEMBER PETTI: -- for ranges and someone
11 coined the term colorset, but it's --

12 MEMBER BALLINGER: What's someone's last
13 name?

14 MEMBER PETTI: Oh, he -- This person
15 didn't tell me who did it, it was just done.

16 MEMBER BALLINGER: Okay. Urban myth.

17 MR. WISE: Next slide, please. When the
18 NRC reviewed these comparison, the critical benchmark
19 experiment comparisons and the colorset evaluations we
20 found that the uncertainties were comparable to those
21 found in previous submittals, specifically the ARCADIA
22 topical report and its supplement, so there was no
23 indication that there is any loss of predictive
24 capability in the range of increased enrichment.

25 Additionally, we found that detector

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1 functionality and lifetime is not significantly
2 impacted by increased enrichment. This is primarily
3 due to two phenomena which counteract each other.

4 The first is an increased importance of
5 background signals and noise. This is relatively
6 small at the beginning of life of a detector but
7 increases as a detector ages, thus reducing the
8 effective lifetime of the detector.

9 However, this is counteracted by a reduced
10 reaction rate as the result of reduced flux and
11 special hardening, which actually increases the life
12 of the detector.

13 Overall there is no significant impact on
14 detector lifetime and the overall detector
15 functionality remains the same. Therefore, the NRC
16 staff determined that the ARCADIA topical report
17 maintains acceptable predictive capability at
18 increased fuel enrichments.

19 Next slide, please. COBRA-FLX is
20 Framatome's thermal hydraulics code which predicts
21 departure from nucleate boiling using parameters such
22 as pressure, flow, quality, and flux.

23 All these are clearly independent of
24 Uranium-235 enrichment. Likewise, the CHF
25 correlations are independent of increased enrichment

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1 and are acceptable for use in increased enrichments
2 because there is no dependency on enrichment.

3 Therefore, the NRC staff determined that
4 COBRA-FLX, as well as the fuel rod bow methodology and
5 the CHF correlations, ORFEO-NMGRID and ORFEO-GAIA, all
6 maintain acceptable predictive capability at increased
7 fuel enrichments.

8 Next slide, please. For the mechanical
9 evaluation Framatome found that component material
10 performance is mostly independent of enrichment and
11 tends to be affected more by fluence of burnup.

12 Framatome also provided data demonstrating
13 the predictive capability of GALILEO and the range of
14 increased enrichment.

15 Next slide, please. The Framatome
16 mechanical codes and methods may be acceptable for use
17 in increased enrichment if at least one of the
18 following are true and if they are applicable and each
19 of the Framatome topical reports listed in the
20 mechanical section do fall under at least one of these
21 three categories.

22 The first is that the code or method is
23 independent of enrichment, so clearly it is applicable
24 at increased enrichments.

25 The second category is the code or methods

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1 primarily fluence dependent. This is because the end-
2 of-life or end-of-cycle fluence at increased
3 enrichments is bounded by the end-of-life or end-of-
4 cycle fluence at lower enrichments.

5 This is primarily due to a production in
6 parasitic absorptions and a reduction in the amount of
7 plutonium in the core as a result of increasing the
8 enrichment.

9 Lastly, specifically for the GALILEO
10 topical report, the data is provided demonstrating
11 acceptable performance in the range of increased
12 enrichment.

13 This data spans the entire range of
14 increased enrichment and there is adequate coverage
15 and there is no adverse trending that would suggest
16 there is a loss of predictive capability of that
17 methodology.

18 Therefore, the NRC staff determined that
19 the methodologies related to component material
20 performance maintain acceptable predictive capability
21 at increased fuel enrichments.

22 Next slide, please. Framatome's non-LOCA
23 codes are ARITA and AREA. They determined that these
24 are acceptable for use at increased fuel enrichments
25 and that their use and functionality at increased

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1 enrichments are unchanged.

2 The NRC staff determined that as a result
3 of the ongoing review with ARITA that there are some
4 parameters in their uncertainty treatments that could
5 be affected by increased enrichments.

6 These were not adequately addressed in the
7 increased enrichment topical report and the ARITA
8 topical report is applicable only to 5 percent. This
9 led to Limitation and Condition Number 1 which
10 requires Framatome to provide additional justification
11 for the use of ARITA at enrichments greater than 5
12 weight percent.

13 Otherwise, due to no changes in
14 functionality of the AREA code the NRC staff
15 determined that AREA maintains acceptable predictive
16 capability at increased fuel enrichments.

17 However, ARITA is limited right now after
18 it is approved to 5 percent until after Limitation and
19 Condition 1 is addressed.

20 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: And this additional
21 justification is related to uncertainties, correct?

22 MR. WISE: Yes. There are a large number
23 of parameter uncertainty treatments as part of the
24 ARITA topical report. The NRC staff reviewed these
25 parameters and identified several that could be

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1 affected by increased enrichment.

2 These parameters are generic in nature and
3 may be empirical or data driven, which is why the NRC
4 would like to see additional information because there
5 might not be adequate data justifying its
6 applicability at increased enrichments.

7 MEMBER HALNON: Brandon, is the output of
8 both of those codes the same, I mean relatively?

9 MR. WISE: We don't have specific data
10 from ARITA because that topical report is ongoing and,
11 likewise, for AREA because the guidance for AREA or
12 for rod injection is going to be held to the same
13 standard for above and below 5 weight percent.

14 MEMBER HALNON: Okay. So they are
15 different, there are codes for different situations?

16 MR. WISE: Yes.

17 MEMBER HALNON: And the ARITA -- I mean I
18 guess the point was is that AREA maintains acceptable
19 predictive capability, does that compensate for not
20 having ARITA in place or is it ARITA still has to
21 have, have to be in there?

22 MR. WISE: So, first of all, the
23 difference between ARITA and AREA, there is no overlap
24 between them. AREA covers only rod injection and
25 ARITA is all other non-LOCA transients.

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1 MEMBER HALNON: So that is a different --

2 MR. WISE: Yes.

3 MEMBER HALNON: Okay. Thanks.

4 MR. WISE: Otherwise, as for the
5 predictive capability of AREA, there is no changes to
6 the code proposed so it's just small increase in
7 enrichment.

8 MEMBER HALNON: Okay.

9 MR. WISE: So that's --

10 MEMBER HALNON: Negligible --

11 MR. WISE: Right. Right. Next slide,
12 please. As for LOCA, Framatome identified no new
13 phenomena associated with increased enrichment.
14 Likewise, the codes and inputs used in the LOCA
15 analyses have already been demonstrated to be
16 acceptable at increased enrichments. These are the
17 neutronics and thermal hydraulics codes discussed on
18 the previous slides.

19 Additionally, the NRC reviewed the 10 CFR
20 50.46 ECCS acceptance criteria and determined that
21 those limits apply at increased enrichments and that
22 Framatome's codes and methods used in LOCA analyses do
23 maintain acceptable predictive capability at increased
24 fuel enrichments.

25 Therefore, the NRC staff determined that

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1 Framatome's LOCA methodologies are acceptable for use
2 at increased enrichments. There is one exception to
3 this and that is discussed on the next slide for decay
4 heat.

5 Next slide, please. Current decay heat
6 models and standards remain applicable for Framatome
7 methods at increased enrichments. That was
8 Framatome's evaluation.

9 The NRC staff reviewed Framatome's models
10 and their ability to accurately predict relevant decay
11 heat phenomena at increased enrichments and found that
12 they remain strictly conservative in the range of
13 increased enrichment.

14 What we know about the relationship
15 between decay heat and increased enrichment is that
16 there is a small, about a 2 percent increase in decay
17 heat initially after shutdown for about ten seconds
18 and then the decay heat at higher enrichments and
19 lower enrichments is roughly the same.

20 Overall there is a very insignificant
21 impact of decay heat on evaluations. Therefore, the
22 staff was able to conclude that the current decay heat
23 models as used by Framatome methods maintain
24 acceptable predictive capability at increased fuel
25 enrichments.

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1 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: And even though it's
2 a very small difference everything in the transient
3 for a few seconds the heat transferred to the coolant
4 is controlled mostly by a stored energy, correct?

5 MR. WISE: That's correct.

6 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: So it's insignificant
7 really.

8 MR. WISE: Yes. The impact of decay heat
9 is essentially insignificant. Next slide, please.
10 Now to discuss the limitations and conditions, there
11 are two of them.

12 The first one is related to ARITA and that
13 is the uncertainty treatment of parameters that may be
14 affected by increased enrichment in ANP-10339P, that
15 is ARITA, have not been approved for use at fuel
16 enrichments greater than 5 weight percent Uranium-235.

17 To implement ARITA with increased fuel
18 enrichments the parameters listed below must have the
19 applicability of their uncertainty treatment for other
20 justified for use of fuel enrichments greater than 5
21 weight percent.

22 The list of parameters is not included
23 here because they are proprietary, but they are mostly
24 neutronics related.

25 This limitation and condition occurred

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1 because of the ongoing review with ARITA and still
2 some potential uncertainties that we had with the
3 review.

4 MEMBER KIRCHNER: From a process
5 standpoint, Brandon, what happens when you complete
6 the review of ARITA? Do you go back and amend the SE
7 and strip away this if they successfully address your
8 concerns, then do you strip away this limitation and
9 condition?

10 MR. WISE: So when ARITA is approved --

11 MEMBER KIRCHNER: Or do you have some kind
12 of mechanism or whatever?

13 MR. WISE: Right now ARITA is being
14 reviewed and when it is approved it will up to 5
15 weight percent only. So this limitation and condition
16 will not be addressed in the current ARITA review.

17 We expect a supplement or some other
18 licensing actions to resolve this limitation and
19 condition.

20 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: And then will a
21 future applicant be able to reference that new ARITA
22 report for greater than 5 percent, like to claim that
23 Limitation and Condition Number 1 is satisfied?

24 MR. WISE: Yes.

25 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: So they will not have

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1 to do an analysis every cycle?

2 MR. WISE: That's correct. And I'll
3 restate the parameters associated with this limitation
4 and condition are generic in nature so it is expected
5 that they will be addressed once and then that's it,
6 unless there are any plant-specific cases that would
7 alter their generic nature.

8 Next slide, please. This is Limitation
9 and Condition Number 2 of this increased enrichment
10 topical report. It is applicable only to the
11 following PWR fuel assembly designs, GAIA 17x17 and
12 HTP 15x15 designs for Westinghouse plants and HTP
13 14x14 and 16x16 designs for combustion engineering
14 plants.

15 The ANP-10353P may be used with other fuel
16 assembly designs with sufficient technical
17 justification for the applicability of this topical
18 report to the assembly design.

19 This was the question that was brought up
20 in the previous presentation and this is the licensing
21 pathway for licensing additional fuel designs at
22 increased fuel enrichments.

23 MEMBER KIRCHNER: So what does sufficient
24 technical justification then require here? I mean you
25 don't start over from scratch, you basically -- How do

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1 you determine this?

2 MR. WISE: We would look for applicability
3 of the approved codes and methods to that fuel design.
4 I have not specifically reviewed all of the codes and
5 methods related to specific fuel designs.

6 So I will give an example of if a certain
7 code is not applicable to GAIA 17x17 for any reason we
8 would expect that to be addressed in the licensing
9 action.

10 MEMBER KIRCHNER: Okay. By and large most
11 of the changes are in the spacer grid design and
12 that's thermal hydraulics, not an enrichment issue.

13 MR. WISE: Right.

14 MEMBER KIRCHNER: Okay. Thank you.

15 MR. WISE: We don't expect any major
16 topics to really come up with licensing additional
17 fuel designs unless there is a very significant change
18 to how fuel is designed.

19 Next slide, please. And for the staff's
20 final conclusion, the NRC staff determined that
21 Framatome codes and methods are acceptable for
22 evaluating fuel with increased enrichment because they
23 maintain acceptable predictive capability in the range
24 of increased enrichment.

25 This is with the exception of ARITA as

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1 discussed in Limitation and Condition Number 1. That
2 will conclude my presentation. Thank you for
3 listening. Are there any additional questions?

4 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: Thank you, Brandon.
5 Any comments or questions from the members, including
6 those out in the cloud?

7 Hearing none, I am going to allow comments
8 by members of the public. If anyone out there -- I
9 don't see any members of the public in the room.
10 Anybody out there in the phone call wants to make a
11 comment please identify yourself and make your
12 comment.

13 CHAIRMAN REMPE: If you have a phone you
14 may need to press star 6 to unmute yourself, it's just
15 an added thing. If you are on a computer just unmute
16 it.

17 (Pause.)

18 MEMBER MARCH-LEUBA: I don't see any
19 comments. So, Ms. Chairman, you are in charge.

20 CHAIRMAN REMPE: Great. Thank you.
21 Thanks for everyone's presentations. At this point we
22 are going to go off the record for the entire meeting,
23 Jim, and thank you for your support, okay?

24 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
25 went off the record at 9:17 a.m.)

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ANP-10353P, Revision 0

Increased Enrichment for PWRs

Morris Byram, Michelle Guzzardo

ACRS Committee Meeting

March 2, 2023

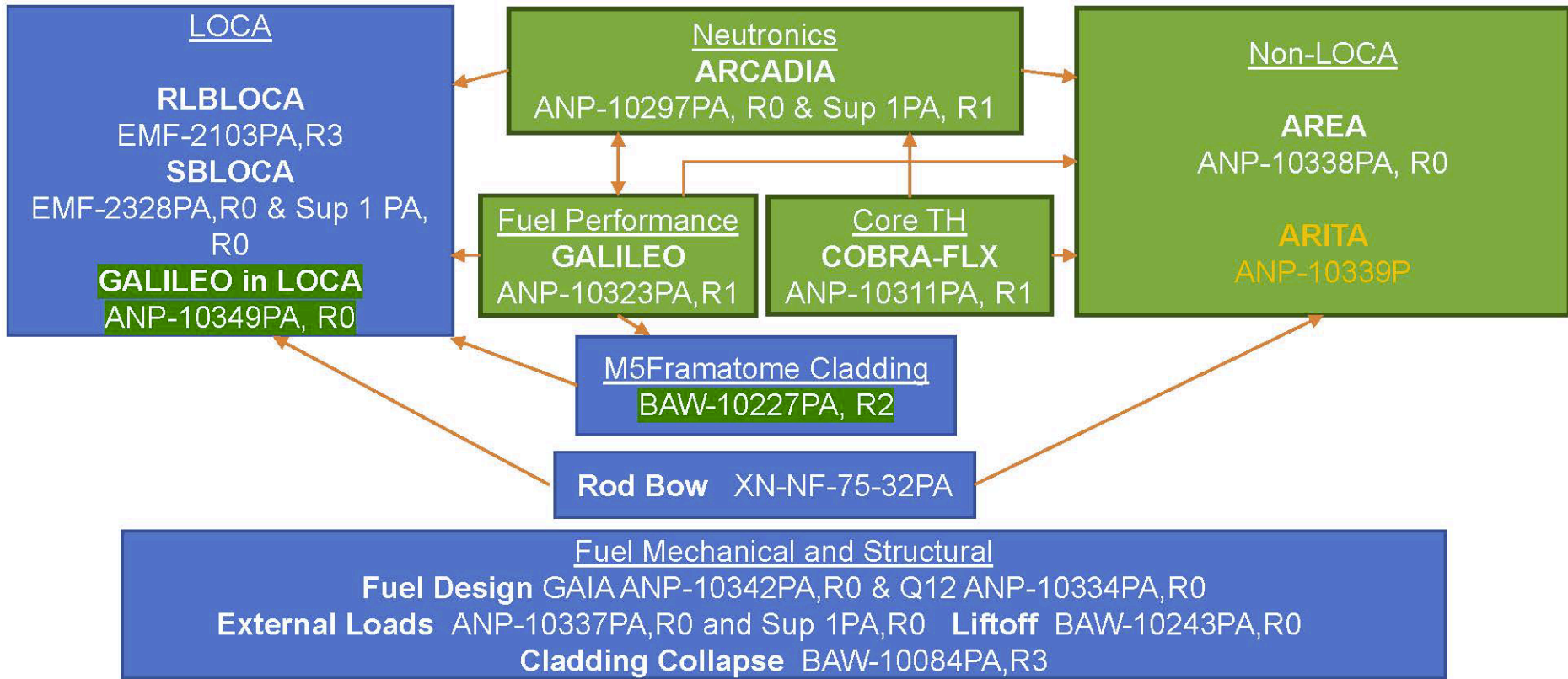
Agenda

- Key Milestones
- Advanced Codes and Methods Topical Reports
- Approval Request and Applicable Fuel Designs
- Major Topic Evaluations
- Summary

Key Milestones

- Pre-submittal meeting: April 2020
- Submitted ANP-10353 for review: January 2021
- Accepted for review: March 2021
- Audit for Understanding: September 2021
- RAIs received: September 2021
- Submitted RAI Responses: January 2022
- Audit, ARITA Parameters: August 2022
- Draft SE: December 2022

Framatome PWR Codes and Methods Overview



Only major methodology connections shown

Approval Request

- Increased enrichment above 5 wt% U-235
- No change in current licensed burnup limits

Supported Fuel Designs

- GAIA 17x17 design for Westinghouse plants
- HTP 15x15 design for Westinghouse plants
- HTP 14x14 design for Combustion Engineering plants
- HTP 16x16 design for Combustion Engineering plants

Neutronics (ARCADIA)

- Additional critical experiment comparisons performed to extend range of enrichment
- Impact of Chromia Doped / Chromium-Coated Cladding
- Additional colorsets added using greater than 5 wt% U-235 fuel
 - Results combined with existing colorsets
 - ARCADIA uncertainty analyses remain applicable
- Detector behavior sensitivity and lifetime remain applicable



ARCADIA code system is acceptable for use with fuel enrichments greater than 5 wt% U-235

Thermal Hydraulics

- CHF Correlation
- COBRA-FLX
- Fuel Rod Bow



Thermal Hydraulic components are applicable to fuel with greater than 5 wt% U-235 since correlations and properties are independent of enrichment

Mechanical

- Materials
- Fuel Rod Thermal-Mechanical (GALILEO)
- Fuel Design
- External Loads
- Statistical Hold Down
- Cladding Collapse
- Fuel Rod Bow

Mechanical – (Continued)

- Materials and methodologies generally dependent on fast fluence
- Fast fluence decreases as U-235 enrichment increases
 - Current EOL fluences are bounding
 - Current fluxes are bounding
- Remaining parameters and methodologies are independent of U-235 enrichment, except GALILEO
- GALILEO benchmarks contain data that bounds the enrichment being requested

Non-LOCA

- ARITA
 - ARCADIA, Decay Heat, COBRA-FLX, ARTEMIS FRM, GALILEO and S-RELAP5 were shown to be applicable to fuel with greater than 5 wt% U-235 or are not dependent on enrichment
 - Neutronics and thermal key parameters were reviewed and generation of these parameters are not affected by enrichment
 - An audit was held in August 2022 in which the uncertainties associated with some key parameters could be affected by increased enrichment
 - Limitations and Conditions (1) lists parameters for which their uncertainty treatment must be further justified for use with at fuel enrichments greater than 5 wt% U-235

Non-LOCA (Continued)

- AREA
 - ARCADIA, GALILEO, COBRA-FLX and RELAP5 were shown to be applicable to fuel with greater than 5 wt% U-235 or are not dependent on enrichment
 - Neutronics and thermal key parameters were reviewed and generation of these parameters are not affected by enrichment
 - Methodology designed to be consistent with regulatory guidance
 - Regulatory guidance was found to be applicable for enrichments greater than 5 wt% U-235

LOCA (SBLOCA and RLBLOCA)

- Rely on both GALILEO and S-RELAP5
- EMs were evaluated for important fuel-related phenomena
 - EMs remain valid for fuel with greater than 5 wt% U-235
- SBLOCA EM: enrichment specified in GALILEO input was updated to a generic value greater than 5 wt% U-235
- Relevant 10 CFR 50.46 limits remain applicable

Decay Heat

- TRITON was used to determine best estimate effects of decay heat with U-235 enrichment
- Current decay heat models used in each of the methodologies remain valid for use with fuel having enrichments greater than 5 wt% U-235

Summary



Codes and methods discussed in the ANP-10353 are acceptable for use with fuel enrichments greater than 5 wt% U-235

Acronyms

AREA – ARCADIA Rod Ejection Accident

ARITA – ARTEMIS/RELAP Integrated Transient Analysis

CE – Combustion Engineering

CHF – Critical Heat Flux

CROV – Framatome’s Creep Ovalization Analysis Code

EM – Evaluation Model

FPC – Fuel Performance Code

LBLOCA – Large Break Loss of Coolant Accident

LB - Large Break

LOCA – Loss of Coolant Accident

NRC – U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

PWR – Pressurized Water Reactor

RLBLOCA – Realistic Large Break Loss of Coolant Accident

SB – Small Break

SBLOCA – Small Break Loss of Coolant Accident

W - Westinghouse

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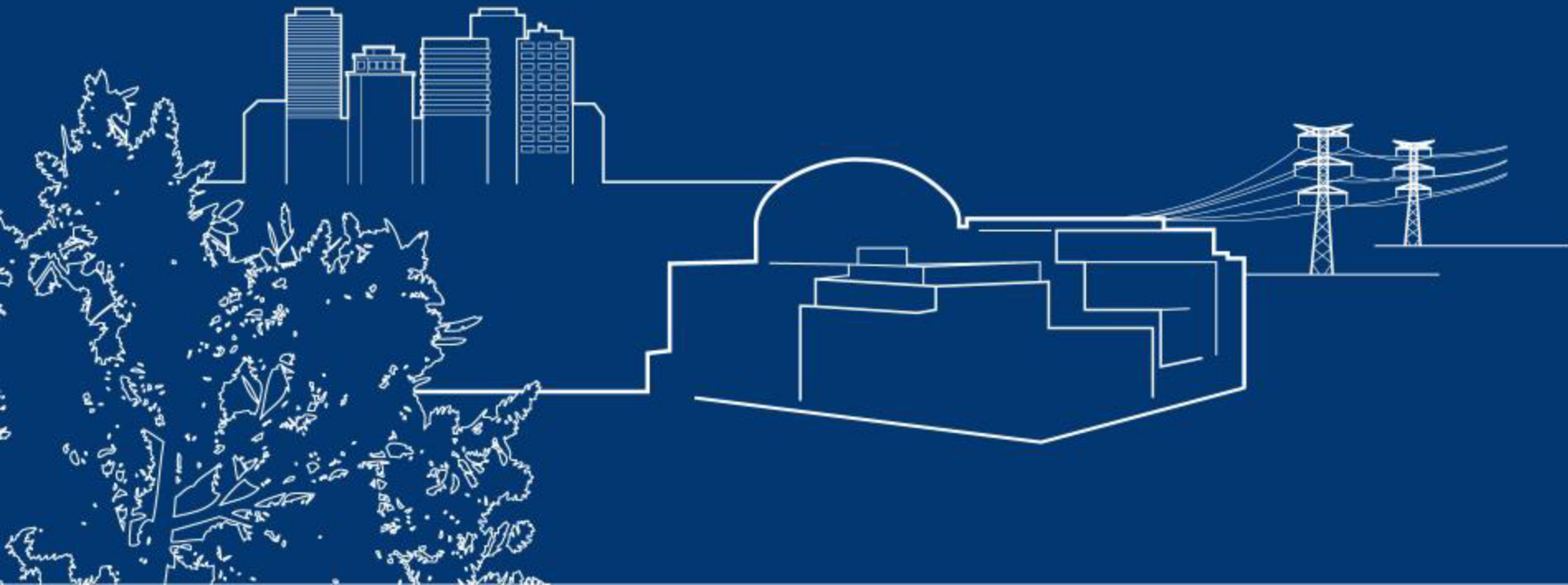
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NRC Safety Evaluation of Topical Report ANP-10353 Increased Enrichment for PWRs Open Session

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ACRS Full Committee Meeting
March 2, 2023

Presentation Outline

- Background
 - Concurrent TR Reviews
 - Codes Used
- Applicable Regulations and Guidance
- Neutronics
- Thermal Hydraulics
- Mechanical
- Non-LOCA
- LOCA
- Decay Heat
- Limitations and Conditions
- Conclusion

Background

- Industry pursuing higher burnup and fuel with increased enrichment for cycle optimization.
- Framatome seeks to expand the range of applicability of enrichment for their codes and methods.
- This TR is applicable for current burnup limits.

Concurrent TR Reviews

- BAW-10227P, Revision 2, “Evaluation of Advanced Cladding and Structural Material (M5) in PWR Reactor Fuel,” December 2019.
- ANP-10339P, Revision 0, “ARITA – ARTEMIS/RELAP Integrated Transient Analysis Methodology,” August 2018.

Codes Used

- ARCADIA (APOLLO2-A, ARTEMIS, COBRA-FLX)
 - Approved 2013, Supplement Approved 2018
- GALILEO
 - Approved 2020
- ARITA (ARTEMIS, GALILEO, S-RELAP5)
 - Under Review, See L&C 1
- SCALE 6.2.3 (TRITON, ORIGEN)

- AREA
 - Approved 2017
- ORFEO-GAIA / ORFEO-NMGRID
 - Approved 2018

Applicable Regulations and Guidance

- 10 CFR 50.46, “Acceptance Criteria for Emergency Core Cooling Systems (ECCS) for Light-Water Nuclear Power Reactors”
- 10 CFR 50.68, “Criticality Accident Requirements”
- 10 CFR Part 50 Appendix A, “General Design Criteria for Nuclear Power Plants, “ General Design Criterion (GDC) 10, “Reactor Design”
- Chapter 4.2, “Fuel System Design,” of the Standard Review Plan (SRP)
- Chapter 4.3, “Nuclear Design,” of the SRP
- Chapter 4.4, “Thermal and Hydraulic Design,” of the SRP
- Chapter 15.0.2, “Review of Transient and Accident Analysis Methods,” of the SRP
- ORNL/TM-2020/1833, “Isotopic and Fuel Lattice Parameter Trends in Extended Enrichment and Higher Burnup LWR Fuel, Vol I: PWR Fuel”

Neutronics

- Framatome Evaluation
 - Needed to demonstrate applicability of ARCADIA at increased enrichments.
 - Performed a critical experiment benchmark comparison
 - Provided colorsets of calculated pin powers for multi-assembly problems with varied enrichments, gadolinia loading, and burnups.
 - No significant change in uncertainty at increased fuel enrichments
 - Evaluated effects of increased enrichment on detector lifetime

Neutronics

- NRC Evaluation
 - The critical experiment benchmark comparison and colorset evaluation uncertainties are comparable to the uncertainties in the previously accepted ARCADIA TRs.
 - Detector functionality and lifetime is not significantly impacted by increased enrichment.
- Conclusion
 - The NRC staff determined that ARCADIA maintains acceptable predictive capability at increased fuel enrichments.

Thermal Hydraulics

- Framatome Evaluation
 - COBRA-FLX predicts DNB using pressure, flow, quality, and heat flux. All of which are independent of U-235 enrichment.
- NRC Evaluation
 - CHF correlations that are independent of enrichment are acceptable for use at increased enrichments.
- Conclusion
 - The NRC staff determined that COBRA-FLX maintains acceptable predictive capability at increased fuel enrichments.

Mechanical

- Framatome Evaluation
 - Component and material performance is mostly independent of enrichment and tends to be affected more by fluence and burnup.
 - Provided data demonstrating predictive capability of GALILEO in the range of increase enrichment.

Mechanical

- NRC Evaluation
 - Framatome mechanical codes and methods may be acceptable for use at increased enrichments if the following, if applicable, are true:
 - The code or method is independent of enrichment.
 - The code or method is primarily fluence-dependent.
 - Data is provided demonstrating acceptable performance in the range of increased enrichment.
- Conclusion
 - The NRC staff determined that methodologies related to component and material performance maintain acceptable predictive capability at increased fuel enrichments.

Non-LOCA

- Framatome Evaluation
 - The codes and inputs to ARITA and AREA have been demonstrated to be acceptable at increased enrichments and their use in the ARITA and AREA methodologies are unchanged.
- NRC Evaluation
 - The uncertainty treatment of some parameters in the ARITA methodology that may be affected by increased enrichment were not adequately addressed.
- Conclusion
 - L&C 1 requires Framatome to provide additional justification to apply increased enrichment to ANP-10339P. The NRC staff determined that AREA maintains acceptable predictive capability at increased fuel enrichments.

LOCA

- Framatome Evaluation
 - No new phenomena associated with increased enrichment were identified. The codes and inputs used in LOCA analyses have been demonstrated to be acceptable at increased enrichments.
- NRC Evaluation
 - An increase enrichment doesn't challenge the 10 CFR 50.46 ECCS acceptance criteria and the codes used in LOCA analyses maintain acceptable predictive capability at increased fuel enrichments.
- Conclusion
 - The NRC staff determined that Framatome's LOCA methodologies are acceptable for use at increased enrichments.

Decay Heat

- Framatome Evaluation
 - Current decay heat models and standards remain applicable for Framatome methods at increased enrichments.
- NRC Evaluation
 - Framatome models accurately predict relevant decay heat phenomena at increased enrichments and remain strictly conservative in the range of increased enrichment.
- Conclusion
 - Current decay heat models, as used by Framatome methods, maintain acceptable predictive capability at increased fuel enrichments.

Limitation and Condition 1

The uncertainty treatment of parameters that may be affected by increased enrichment in ANP-10339P have not been approved for use at fuel enrichments greater than 5 wt% U-235. To implement ANP-10339P with increased enrichment, the parameters listed below must have the applicability of their uncertainty treatment further justified for use at fuel enrichments greater than 5 wt% U-235.

Limitation and Condition 2

ANP-10353P is applicable only to the following PWR fuel assembly designs: GAIA 17x17 and HTP 15x15 designs for Westinghouse plants, and HTP 14x14 and HTP 16x16 designs for Combustion Engineering plants. ANP-10353P may be used with other fuel assembly designs with sufficient technical justification for the applicability of ANP-10353P to the assembly design.

Conclusion

The NRC staff determined that Framatome codes and methods are acceptable for evaluating fuel with increased enrichment because they maintain acceptable predictive capability in the range of increased enrichment.

Acronyms

AOO – Anticipated Operational Occurrence

AREA – ARCADIA Rod Ejection Accident

ARITA – ARTEMIS/RELAP Integrated Transient Analysis

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations

CHF – Critical Heat Flux

C-M – Calculated - Measured

DNB – Departure from Nucleate Boiling

ECCS – Emergency Core Cooling System

EM – Evaluation Model

FFRD – Fuel Fragmentation Relocation and Dispersal

GDC – General Design Criterion

HTP – High Thermal Performance

LOCA – Loss of Coolant Accident

LWR – Light Water Reactor

MSLB – Main Steam Line Break

ORNL – Oak Ridge National Lab

PWR – Pressurized Water Reactor

RLBLOCA – Realistic Large Break Loss of Coolant Accident

SBLOCA – Small Break Loss of Coolant Accident

SRP – Standard Review Plan

T-H – Thermal-Hydraulics

TR – Topical Report