

October 28, 1999

Framatome Cogema Fuels  
ATTN: Mr. J. E. Matheson  
Plant Manager  
Lynchburg Manufacturing Facility  
P. O. Box 11646  
Lynchburg, VA 24506-1646

SUBJECT: NRC PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF LICENSED ACTIVITIES

Dear Mr. Matheson:

Managers and staff in Region II and the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS) reviewed your program for conducting NRC licensed activities. The review evaluated your performance for the period September 29, 1997 through September 3, 1999. This review provides you with feedback on how NRC senior management assesses your performance, and will be used as a basis for establishing the NRC inspection program for your conduct of licensed activities during the next year.

Your performance was evaluated in the five major areas of safety operations, safeguards, radiological controls, facility support, and special topics. An outline of the results of the NRC's review, in the form of strengths, areas needing improvement, and challenges, is enclosed. The results of the review will be discussed with you at your facility in Lynchburg, Virginia, during a meeting open to the public on November 30, 1999. During that meeting, we expect you to discuss your view of your performance in the same major areas.

This review identified no areas as needing improvement. This is a marked improvement over the last License Performance Review (LPR) cycle, which had no program strengths and ten areas needing improvement.

Several challenges are facing Framatome Cogema Fuels during the current LPR cycle. The most significant is the challenge of continuing to strengthen your management attention to the corrective action program.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

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Should you have any questions or comments, I would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

(original signed by  
D. M. Collins)

Douglas M. Collins, Director  
Division of Nuclear Materials Safety

Docket No. 70-1201  
License No. SNM-1168

Enclosure: Licensee Performance Review  
- Summary Outline

cc w/encl:

T. S. Wilkerson, Manager  
Quality, Health/Safety and Licensing  
Framatome Cogema Fuels  
Lynchburg Manufacturing Facility  
P. O. Box 11646  
Lynchburg, VA 24506-1646

Leslie P. Foldesi, Director  
Bureau of Radiological Health  
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# LICENSEE PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR FRAMATOME COGEMA FUELS (FCF)

ASSESSMENT PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 29, 1997 TO SEPTEMBER 3, 1999

## SUMMARY OUTLINE

The following is a summary of the program strengths, improvements, and challenges for the performance of FCF, in the conduct of NRC licensed activities.

### A. SAFETY OPERATIONS (Comprised of Chemical Safety, Criticality Safety, Plant Operations, Fire Safety, and Management Controls)

#### Safety Operations Program Strengths

- None

#### Safety Operations Needing Improvement

- None

#### Projected Challenges to Performance in Safety Operations

- Continued improvement of management oversight of corrective actions

### B. SAFEGUARDS (Comprised of Material Control and Accounting and Physical Protection)

#### Safeguards Program Strengths

- None

#### Safeguards Needing Improvement

- None

#### Projected Challenges to Performance in Safeguards

- Updating of MC&A controls for non-routine and new activities

Enclosure

**C. RADIOLOGICAL CONTROL (Comprised of Radiation Protection, Environmental Protection, Waste Management, and Transportation)**

Radiological Control Program Strengths

- None

Radiological Controls Needing Improvement

- None

Projected Challenges to Performance in Radiological Control

- Disposal of contaminated soil

**D. FACILITY SUPPORT (Comprised of Maintenance and Surveillance, Training, and Emergency Preparedness)**

Facility Support Program Strengths

- None

Facility Support Areas Needing Improvement

- None

Projected Challenges to Performance in Facility Support

- Emergency procedures

**E. SPECIAL TOPICS (Comprised of Safety Licensing, the Fundamental Nuclear Material Control (FNMC) Plan, and the Security Plan)**

Special Topics Program Strengths

- None

Special Topics Needing Improvement

- None

Projected Challenges to Performance in Special Topics

- License renewal