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

November 8, 1999

Mr. T. A. Coleman, Vice President
Government Relations
Framatome Cogema Fuels, Inc.
3315 Old Forest Road
P.O. Box 10935
Lynchburg, Virginia 24506-0935

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR WITHHOLDING INFORMATION FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

Dear Mr. Coleman:

By your application dated August 3, 1999, and affidavit dated August 4, 1999, you submitted information regarding improvements to the Fixed Incore Detector Monitoring System (FIDMS) and requested that it be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790. A nonproprietary version was submitted for placement in the NRC public document room.

The affidavit stated that the submitted information should be considered exempt from mandatory public disclosure for the following reasons:

- "c. The use of the information by a competitor would decrease his expenditures, in time or resources, in designing, producing or marketing a similar product.
- d. The information consists of test data or other similar data concerning a process, method or component, the application of which results in a competitive advantage to FCF.
- e. The information reveals special aspects of a process, method, component or the like, the exclusive use of which results in a competitive advantage to FCF."

We have reviewed your application and the material in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.790 and, on the basis of your statements, have determined that the submitted information sought to be withheld contains proprietary commercial information and should be withheld from public disclosure.

Therefore, the version of the submitted information marked as proprietary will be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790(b)(5) and Section 103(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Withholding from public inspection shall not affect the right, if any, of persons properly and directly concerned to inspect the documents. If the need arises, we may send copies of this information to our consultants working in this area. We will, of course, ensure that the consultants have signed the appropriate agreements for handling proprietary information.

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Mr. T. A. Coleman

- 2 - November 8, 1999

If the basis for withholding this information from public inspection should change in the future such that the information could then be made available for public inspection, you should promptly notify the NRC. You also should understand that the NRC may have cause to review this determination in the future, for example, if the scope of a Freedom of Information Act request includes your information. In all review situations, if the NRC makes a determination adverse to the above, you will be notified in advance of any public disclosure.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at (301) 415-1321.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:

Stewart N. Bailey, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 693

cc: Mr. J. J. Kelly, Manager
B&W Owners Group Services
Framatome Technologies, Inc.
P.O. Box 10935
Lynchburg, VA 24506-0935

Mr. F. McPhatter, Manager
Framatome Cogema Fuels
3315 Old Forest Road
P.O. Box 10935
Lynchburg, VA 24506-0935

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Mr. T. A. Coleman

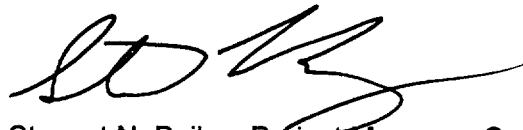
- 2 -

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