

January 26, 2001

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

SUBJECT: FUEL CLADDING DUCTILITY

Dear Mr. Coleman:

The NRC staff has become aware of the enclosed paper by J. Bohmert entitled, "Embrittlement of ZrNb1 at Room Temperature After High-temperature Oxidation in Steam Atmosphere," which questions the validity of the 17 percent oxidation criteria for loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA) conditions for ZrNb1 cladding. We would like to meet with you to discuss this subject. Alternatively, you may wish to respond to this letter in writing, presenting any technical information that you believe is relevant to the issue presented. Please contact the Framatome Project Manager, Stewart Bailey at (301) 415-1321 to schedule a meeting at your convenience or to advise us of your schedule for the submittal. The technical reviewer for this activity is Margaret Chatterton (301) 415-2889.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stephen Dembek, Chief, Section 2
Project Directorate IV and Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 693

Enclosure: Paper

cc w/encl: See next page

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