

February 11, 2002

Mr. James F. Mallay, Director
Regulatory Affairs
Framatome ANP, Inc.
P.O. Box 10935
Lynchburg, VA 24506-0935

Dear Mr. Mallay:

On January 8, 2002, you wrote to Thomas King regarding changes being considered for 10 CFR 50.46 to facilitate the use of cladding alloys other than Zircaloy and ZIRLO. You expressed concerns about public discussion, new regulatory guides, and the nature of performance-based criteria.

We are continuing to work on the ideas outlined in SECY-01-0133, including development of performance-based criteria. Although a date for the next public meeting has not yet been set, there will be ample time for public discussion of the nature of the performance-based criteria under consideration and their implementation. We understand your special interest in this topic and look forward to the further exchange of ideas with you at the next meeting.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Farouk Eltawila, Director
Division of Systems Analysis and Regulatory Effectiveness
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

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