

FRAMATOME ANP, Inc.

June 27, 2003
NRC:03:041

Document Control Desk
ATTN: Chief, Planning, Program and Management Support Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Status of the Evaluation of a Deviation Pursuant to 10 CFR 21.21(a)(2)

Ref.: 1. Letter, J. F. Mallay (Framatome ANP) to Document Control Desk (NRC), "Interim Report of Evaluation of a Deviation Pursuant to 10 CFR 21.21(a)(2)," NRC:02:031, July 10, 2002.

Framatome ANP issued an interim report to the NRC on July 10, 2002 (Reference 1) concerning results of tests conducted in France on irradiated spacer grids. This interim report set forth a completion date for this evaluation of June 30, 2003. The evaluation is nearly complete, and a detailed report is being prepared for management review and concurrence. We expect to complete this report by August 1, 2003.

In summary, the results of the French tests are applicable in varying degrees to fuel assembly designs used in the U.S. We have used approved methods to evaluate the seismic and LOCA loads on irradiated spacer grids. These evaluations were made following extensive tests conducted at each of our primary fuel facilities—namely, in France, Germany, and the U.S.

Complete results of our evaluation will be provided to the NRC by August 8, 2003.

Very truly yours,

James F. Mallay

James F. Mallay, Director
Regulatory Affairs

cc: D. G. Holland
Project 728

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