

July 27, 2012

Mr. Pedro Salas, Manager
Site Operations and Regulatory Affairs
AREVA NP Inc.
3315 Old Forest Road
Lynchburg, VA 24501

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE FOR REVIEW OF AREVA NP, INC (AREVA) TOPICAL
REPORT (TR) EMF-92-116(P)(A), REVISION 0, SUPPLEMENT 1,
REVISION 0, "GENERIC MECHANICAL DESIGN CRITERIA FOR PWR
[PRESSURIZED WATER REACTOR] FUEL DESIGN" (TAC NO. ME7962)

Dear Mr. Salas:

By letter dated December 19, 2011, AREVA submitted for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review TR EMF-92-116(P)(A), Revision 0, Supplement 1, Revision 0, "Generic Mechanical Design Criteria for PWR Fuel Design." The NRC staff has performed an acceptance review of this TR. We have found that the material presented is sufficient to begin our comprehensive review. The NRC staff expects to issue its request for additional information by August 31, 2012, and issue its draft safety evaluation (SE) by November 30, 2012. The NRC staff estimates that the review will require approximately 260 staff hours including project management time. The review schedule milestones and estimated review hours were discussed and agreed upon in a telephone conference between Gayle Elliott, AREVA Product Licensing Manager and the NRC staff on May 18, 2012.

Section 170.21 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* requires that TRs are subject to fees based on the full cost of the review. You did not request a fee waiver; therefore, NRC staff hours will be billed accordingly.

As with all TRs, the SE will be reviewed by the NRC's Office of the General Counsel (OGC) to determine whether it falls within the scope of the Congressional Review Act (CRA). During the course of this review, OGC considers whether any endorsement or acceptance of a TR by the NRC amounts to a rule as defined in the CRA. If this initial review concludes that the SE, with its accompanying TR, may be a rule, the NRC will forward the package to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for further review and consideration. Any review by OMB would impact the schedule for the final issuance of the SE.

P. Salas

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If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Holly Cruz at (301) 415-1053.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John R. Jolicoeur, Chief
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 728

P. Salas

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Sincerely,

/RA/

John R. Jolicoeur, Chief
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