

March 27, 2014

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

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE FOR REVIEW OF TOPICAL REPORT ANP-10323P, "FUEL ROD THERMAL MECHANICAL METHODOLOGY FOR BOILING WATER AND PRESSURIZED WATER REACTORS" (TAC NO. MF2545)

Dear Mr. Salas:

By letter dated August 1, 2013 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System Accession No. ML13218A014), AREVA NP Inc. (AREVA) submitted for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff review Topical Report (TR) ANP-10323P, "Fuel Rod Thermal Mechanical Methodology for Boiling Water Reactors and Pressurized Water Reactors." The NRC staff has performed an acceptance review of TR ANP-10323P. 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 July 2014 and issue its draft safety evaluation (SE) by December 2015. This schedule information takes in consideration the NRC's current review priorities and available technical resources and may be subject to change. If modifications to these dates are deemed necessary, we will provide appropriate updates to this information. The NRC staff estimates that the review will require approximately 680 staff hours including project management time. The estimated review costs were discussed and agreed upon in a telephone conference between Gayle Elliott, AREVA Product Licensing Manager, and the NRC staff on March 19, 2014.

Regarding the review of the mixed oxide (MOX) fuel component of the TR, the NRC staff observes that there is no guidance on MOX fuel radiological source term, reactivity insertion accident initiated clad failure, and no research results on fuel fragmentation and dispersal under loss-of-coolant accident conditions. Though the TR reports that the issues indicated above will be subject of another TR, the NRC staff would like to inform the applicant that review of the MOX component of the TR will be challenging and likely extend the time of the review. Also, the NRC staff would like to indicate that the approval of the TR would not allow for batch reload application of MOX fuel.

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

- 2 -

If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Jonathan G. Rowley at (301) 415-4053.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony J. Mendiola, Chief
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 728

P. Salas

- 2 -

If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact Jonathan G. Rowley at (301) 415-4053.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony J. Mendiola, Chief
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 728

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC
RidsNrrDpr
RidsNrrDprPlpb
RidsNrrLADBaxley
RidsAcrsAcnwMailCenter
JRowley
RidsOgcMailCenter
RidsNrrDssSnpb
RidsResDss
RidsNroOd
RidsResOd
JDean

ADAMS Accession No.: ML14078A458

NRR-106

OFFICE	PLPB/PM	PLPB/LA	SNPB/BC	PLPB/BC
NAME	JRowley	DBaxley	JDean	AMendiola
DATE	03/19/2014	03/20/2014	03/26/2014	03/27/2014

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY