

February 1, 2017

Mr. Gary Peters, Director
Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
AREVA Inc.
3315 Old Forest Road
Lynchburg, VA 24501

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
CONCURRENCE REGARDING THE APPLICABILITY OF TOPICAL REPORT
BWR-2149A, "EVALUATION OF REPLACEMENT RODS IN BWFC FUEL
ASSEMBLIES" TO CORES CONTAINING FRESH FUEL ASSEMBLIES WITH
STAINLESS STEEL RODS

By letter dated July 7, 2016 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML16193A060), AREVA Inc. (AREVA) requested U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) concurrence (by letter) that the Topical Report BAW-2149A, "Evaluation of Replacement Rods in [Babcock and Wilcox Fuel Company] BWFC Fuel Assemblies," is applicable to cores containing fresh fuel assemblies containing stainless steel rods as well as reconstituted fuel assemblies. The NRC staff confirmed that the methodology, as currently approved, allows for the use of application to fresh fuel assemblies containing stainless steel rods provided the same method of analysis as described in BAW-2149A is used.

It is anticipated that upon receipt of this letter from the NRC indicating concurrence that BWR-2149A is applicable, AREVA will submit a revision to BAW-10179PA, Revision 8, "Safety Criteria and Methodology for Acceptable Cycle Reload Analyses," reflecting the NRC concurrence.

If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan G. Rowley at 301-415-4053.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Kevin Hsueh, Chief
Licensing Processes Branch
Division of Policy and Rulemaking
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Project No. 728

G. Peters

- 2 -

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RODS DATE: February 1, 2017

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML16357A669; *concurred via email

NRR-106

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