



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
REGION II
245 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE NE, SUITE 1200
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1257

March 2, 2018

Mr. Ronald J. Land
Site Manager
Framatome Inc.
2101 Horn Rapids Road
Richland, Washington 99352

SUBJECT: FRAMATOME INC. – LICENSEE PERFORMANCE REVIEW (NUCLEAR
REGULATORY COMMISSION INSPECTION REPORT 70-1257/2018-001)

Dear Mr. Land:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff in our Region II office, the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, and the Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response completed a licensee performance review of the Framatome Inc., Richland fuel fabrication facility inspection results and facility performance in conducting NRC-licensed activities. The review covered the period of January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2017. The performance of Framatome Inc., was evaluated in the following performance areas: Safety Operations, Safeguards, Radiological Controls, Facility Support, and Other Areas. The enclosure to this letter provides the results of our review and constitutes the basis for establishing the NRC oversight program for your facility.

Overall, the staff determined that Framatome Inc., has continued to conduct activities safely and securely and in a manner that protects public health and the environment. Based on our review of activities, no area needing improvement was identified for the areas of Safety Operations, Safeguards, Radiological Controls, Facility Support, and Other Areas. Therefore, the NRC plans to conduct the core inspection program for a Category III Fuel Facility as described in NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 2600 Appendix B, "NRC Core Inspection Requirements," for the period of January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2019. No separate letter will be issued addressing the Safeguards area.

Unresolved Items (URIs) were opened during the conduct of Temporary Instruction (TI) 2600/015, "Evaluation of Licensee Strategies for the Prevention and/or Mitigation of Emergencies at Fuel Facilities." The NRC subsequently issued Generic Letter (GL) 2015-01, "Treatment of Natural Phenomena Hazards in Fuel Cycle Facilities" (ADAMS Accession No. ML14328A029) to request that licensees submit information to demonstrate compliance with regulatory requirements regarding the treatment of natural phenomena hazard (NPH) events in the integrated safety analysis (ISA). The NRC conducted an announced inspection during the week of August 29, 2016, in accordance with TI 2600/016, "Inspection of Activities Associated with NRC Generic Letter 2015-01" (ML16293A899) to independently verify that the Framatome Inc., response to the GL adequately evaluated NPH events in your facility ISA. In addition, this inspection was used to follow-up with previously identified URIs regarding the treatment of NPH events and to inform of the closure process of NRC GL-2015-01. The NRC concluded that the

Framatome Inc., ISA adequately addressed potential hazards as a result of NPH events; therefore, the URIs opened during the conduct of TI 2600/015 were closed during this inspection.

The results of our review will be discussed with you at a public meeting on March 21, 2018, via webinar. During the meeting, we request that you discuss your performance in the same areas as those evaluated by the NRC.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

Please refer questions and comments regarding your Licensee Performance Review to Mr. Eric Michel, Chief, Projects Branch 2, by telephone at 404-997-4555.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Mark S. Lesser, Director
Division of Fuel Facility Inspection

Docket No. 70-1257
License No. SNM-1227

Enclosure:
Licensee Performance Review

cc: (See page 3)

cc:

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REGULATORY COMMISSION INSPECTION REPORT 70-1257/2018-001) –
MARCH 1, 2018

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ADAMS: ☒ Yes ACCESSION NUMBER: ML18064A175 ☒ SUNSI REVIEW COMPLETE ☒ FORM 665 ATTACHED

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DATE	2/27/2018	2/27/2018	2/27/2018	2/27/2018	2/27/2018	2/28/2018
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LICENSEE PERFORMANCE REVIEW FOR FRAMATOME INC.

ASSESSMENT PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2016 TO DECEMBER 31, 2017

The following is a summary of the performance of Framatome Inc., in the conduct of NRC-licensed activities.

PERFORMANCE AREA: SAFETY OPERATIONS

This area is comprised of plant operations, nuclear criticality safety, and fire protection.

Program Areas Needing Improvement

- One non-cited violation (NCV) was identified during the assessment period. No specific area needing improvement was identified in Safety Operations.

Recommended NRC Inspection Effort

- Maintain the core inspection effort in Safety Operations.

PERFORMANCE AREA: SAFEGUARDS

This area is comprised of material control and accounting (MC&A), physical protection of special nuclear material, and information security.

Program Areas Needing Improvement

- No specific area needing improvement was identified in Safeguards.

Recommended NRC Inspection Effort

- Maintain the core inspection effort in Safeguards.

PERFORMANCE AREA: RADIOLOGICAL CONTROLS

This area is comprised of radiation protection, environmental protection, waste management, and transportation.

Program Areas Needing Improvement

- No specific area needing improvement was identified in Radiological Controls.

Recommended NRC Inspection Effort

- Maintain the core inspection effort in Radiological Controls.

Enclosure

PERFORMANCE AREA: FACILITY SUPPORT

This area is comprised of maintenance and surveillance of safety controls, management organization and controls, operator training, emergency preparedness, emergency exercise evaluation, and permanent plant modifications.

Program Areas Needing Improvement

- No specific area needing improvement was identified in Facility Support.

Recommended NRC Inspection Effort

- Maintain the core inspection effort in Facility Support.

PERFORMANCE AREA: OTHER AREAS

This area is comprised of special issues.

Program Areas Needing Improvement

- One violation was identified during the assessment period. No specific area needing improvement was identified in Other Areas.

Recommended NRC Inspection Effort

- Maintain the core inspection effort in Other Areas.