October 4, 1996

Mr. J. H. Taylor, Manager
Licensing Services
Framatome Technologies
3315 Old Forest Road
P.O. Box 10935
Lynchburg, VA 24506-0935

Dear Mr. Taylor:

In a letter of August 28, 1996 (JHT/96-57), Framatome Cogema Fuels (FCF) requested that the SIMULATE-3 neutronics code calculational uncertainty of 5.5% be approved for use with the NRC-approved TACO3 and GDTACO fuel thermal analysis codes for Three Mile Island, Unit 1 (TMI-1) reload licensing analyses. FCF has previously received approval from the NRC to utilize the NEMO code calculational uncertainty of 4.8% as the fuel rod power history uncertainty when performing fuel thermal performance analyses with either the TACO3 or the GDTACO code.

GPU Nuclear (GPUN) has recently received NRC approval of their SIMULATE-3 code, which has a calculational uncertainty of 5.5%, for TMI-1 reload applications. Therefore, the NRC staff finds the SIMULATE-3 calculational uncertainty of 5.5%, as the power history uncertainty for use with the TACO3 and GDTACO codes, acceptable for TMI-1 reload licensing analyses. This uncertainty applies only to TMI-1 and may not be used generically. GPUN will provide the fuel rod power history obtained with SIMULATE-3 to FCF for use with TACO3 or GDTACO.

This letter may be referenced by GPUN as an NRC approved methodology for performing reload analyses.

Sincerely,

/S/

Robert C. Jones, Chief
Reactor Systems Branch
Division of Systems Safety and Analysis

Contact: L. Kopp, SRXB
415-2879

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