

inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that comment submissions are not routinely edited to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment into ADAMS.

## II. Background

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the NRC is requesting public comment on its intention to request the OMB's approval for the information collection summarized as follows.

1. *The title of the information collection:* NRC Form 531, Request for Taxpayer Identification Number.
2. *OMB approval number:* 3150–0188.
3. *Type of submission:* Extension.
4. *The form number, if applicable:* NRC Form 531.
5. *How often the collection is required or requested:* Licensees are only required to submit once.
6. *Who will be required or asked to respond:* NRC Form 531 is used to collect taxpayer identification numbers (TINs) and information sufficient to identify the licensee or applicant for licenses, certificates, approvals, and registrations.
7. *The estimated number of annual responses:* 150.
8. *The estimated number of annual respondents:* 150.
9. *The estimated number of hours needed annually to comply with the information collection requirement or request:* 37.5.

10. *Abstract:* The Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 requires that agencies collect TINs from individuals who do business with the Government, including contractors and recipients of credit, licenses, permits, and benefits. The TIN will be used to process all electronic payments (refunds) made to licensees by electronic funds transfer by the Department of the Treasury. The Department of the Treasury will use the TIN to determine whether the refund can be used to administratively offset any delinquent debts reported to the Treasury by other Government agencies. In addition, the TIN will be used to collect and report to the Department of the Treasury any delinquent indebtedness arising out of the licensee's or applicant's relationship with the NRC.

## III. Specific Requests for Comments

The NRC is seeking comments that address the following questions:

1. Is the proposed collection of information necessary for the NRC to properly perform its functions? Does the information have practical utility? Please explain your answer.
2. Is the estimate of the burden of the information collection accurate? Please explain your answer.
3. Is there a way to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected?
4. How can the burden of the information collection on respondents be minimized, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology?

Dated: December 17, 2024.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**David Cullison,**

*NRC Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2024–30393 Filed 12–19–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 7590–01–P**

## NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 52–020; NRC–2024–0199]

### Framatome Inc.; Application for Standard Design Certification of the U.S. EPR; Exemption

**AGENCY:** Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is issuing an exemption in response to an April 17, 2024, letter from Framatome Inc. (Framatome), which requested an extension to the exemption from regulatory requirements regarding the annual reports required by regulations (hereafter “required report”) for the U.S. EPR standard design certification application for the years 2024–2028. The regulation for which exemption is sought covers emergency core cooling systems (ECCS) for light-water nuclear power reactors. Staff review of the U.S. EPR standard design certification application was suspended in April 2015 at the request of the applicant. Framatome committed to submit the required report before any request to reactivate the U.S. EPR review. Framatome further committed to providing an update to the required report, or taking other appropriate action, as necessary, no later than December 31, 2028. The NRC staff reviewed this request and determined that it is appropriate to grant the exemption in accordance with the regulations as the request does not present an undue risk to public health

or safety and is consistent with the common defense and security; furthermore, special circumstances exist.

**DATES:** The exemption is effective on December 9, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Please refer to Docket ID NRC–2024–0199 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information regarding this document. You may obtain publicly available information related to this document using any of the following methods:

- *Federal Rulemaking website:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and search for Docket ID NRC–2024–0199. Address questions about Docket IDs to Stacy Schumann; telephone: 301–415–0624; email: [Stacy.Schumann@nrc.gov](mailto:Stacy.Schumann@nrc.gov). For technical questions, contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

- *NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):* You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at <https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. To begin the search, select “Begin Web-based ADAMS Search.” For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1–800–397–4209, at 301–415–4737, or by email to [PDR.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:PDR.Resource@nrc.gov).

- *NRC's PDR:* The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to [PDR.Resource@nrc.gov](mailto:PDR.Resource@nrc.gov) or call 1–800–397–4209 or 301–415–4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ricky Vivanco, Project Manager, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001; telephone: 301–415–0021; email: [Ricky.Vivanco@nrc.gov](mailto:Ricky.Vivanco@nrc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The text of the exemption is attached.

Dated: December 16, 2024.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.  
**Michele Sampson**,  
 Director, Division of New and Renewed  
 Licenses, Office of Nuclear Reactor  
 Regulation.

#### Attachment—Exemption.

### NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Docket No. 52–020

Framatome Inc.

#### Application for Standard Design Certification of the U.S. EPR

#### I. Background

By letter dated December 11, 2007, Areva NP Inc. (Areva) (now Framatome Inc. (Framatome)) submitted to the NRC an application for standard design certification of the U.S. EPR (ADAMS Accession No. ML073520305). Following an acceptance review, the NRC docketed the application (Docket No. 52–020) in a letter dated February 25, 2008 (ADAMS Accession No. ML080380357). By letter dated July 17, 2014 (ADAMS Accession No. ML14209A053), Areva submitted Revision 7 to the standard design certification application. By letter dated February 25, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15061A130), Areva requested that the NRC suspend review of the U.S. EPR standard design certification application. By letter dated June 30, 2020 (ADAMS Accession No. ML20188A219), Framatome requested an exemption from the annual reporting requirements of 10 CFR 50.46(a)(3)(iii) stating in part that “. . . given that the NRC’s review of the U.S. EPR DCA [design certification application] has been suspended and remains suspended, Framatome requests an exemption from the requirement to submit annual reports required by 10 CFR 50.46(a)(3)(iii) for the next five years (2020–2024).” **Federal Register** Notice (FRN) 2020–21811 granted this exemption requested by Framatome on September 29, 2020. By letter dated April 17, 2024 (ADAMS Accession No. ML24114A037), Framatome requested an extension to the exemption from the annual reporting requirements of 10 CFR 50.46(a)(3)(iii) stating in part that “. . . given that the NRC’s review of the DCA [design certification application] remains suspended. Specifically, Framatome requests an exemption from the requirement to submit annual reports to the DCA during the years 2024 through 2028.”

#### II. Request/Action

Section 50.46(a)(1)(i) of 10 CFR, in part, provides requirements for models used in calculations regarding ECCS

performance following postulated loss of coolant accidents. Section 50.46(a)(3)(iii) requires that an applicant for a standard design certification report any change or error found in such ECCS performance models, including the nature of the change or error and its estimated effect on the limiting ECCS analysis, at least annually.

In a letter dated April 17, 2024 (ADAMS Accession No. ML24114A037), Framatome requested an extension of the exemption from the reporting requirements of 10 CFR 50.46(a)(3)(iii) for the years 2024 through 2028. Framatome has committed to submit the required report before requesting to reactivate the U.S. EPR review. They have committed to updating the required report, or taking other appropriate action, no later than December 31, 2028.

#### III. Discussion

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the Commission may, upon application by any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50, including 10 CFR 50.46(a)(3)(iii), when: (1) the exemptions are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health or safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security; and (2) special circumstances are present. As relevant to the requested exemption, special circumstances exist if: (1) application of the regulation in the particular circumstances would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule (10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii)); or (2) compliance would result in undue hardship or other costs that are significantly in excess of those contemplated when the regulation was adopted, or that are significantly in excess of those incurred by others similarly situated (10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(iii)).

Framatome is seeking the exemption for the years 2024 through 2028. Framatome has committed to updating the 10 CFR 50.46 report or taking other appropriate action, as necessary, no later than December 31, 2028.

#### *No Undue Risk to Public Health and Safety*

The purpose of 10 CFR 50.46(a)(3)(iii) is to provide for timely notification of the nature and estimated effect of any errors or changes in the limiting ECCS analysis. Because the review of the U.S. EPR standard design certification application has been suspended at the applicant’s request, any report submitted under 10 CFR 50.46 would

not be reviewed by the staff until such time as the review of the design certification is reactivated. The requested exemption is administrative and deals only with the schedule for reports which would not be reviewed. Because the exemption applies only to an application, not to a licensed entity, this exemption has no safety implications and introduces nothing that could adversely impact public health. Under the proposed exemption, any further review of the U.S. EPR standard design certification application will not resume until Framatome submits the required report. Design certification cannot occur until the NRC’s review of the application is completed and a final safety evaluation report is issued. Based on the nature of the requested exemption as described above, no new accident precursors or accident scenarios are introduced or created by the exemption; therefore, neither the probability nor the consequences of postulated accidents are increased and there is no undue risk to public health and safety. The request for an exemption has no bearing on public health and safety and, therefore, poses no undue risk to public health and safety.

#### *Consistent With Common Defense and Security*

The requested exemption would relieve Framatome of the requirement to submit annual reports required by 10 CFR 50.46(a)(3)(iii) for the years 2024 through 2028. The applicant has committed to submit a 10 CFR 50.46 report before submitting any request for the NRC to resume reviewing the U.S. EPR design certification application and to update the required report, or take other appropriate action, no later than December 31, 2028. This schedule change has no relation to security issues; therefore, the common defense and security is not impacted.

#### *Special Circumstances*

Special circumstances, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2), are present under the circumstances relevant to the requested exemption. Generally, special circumstances are present if: (1) application of the regulation in the particular circumstances would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule (10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii)); or (2) if compliance would result in undue hardship or other costs that are significantly in excess of those contemplated when the regulation was adopted, or that are significantly in excess of those incurred by others

similarly situated (10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(iii)).

The underlying purpose of 10 CFR 50.46(a)(3)(iii) is to ensure that the NRC receives timely notification of the nature and estimated effect of errors or changes in the limiting ECCS analysis. A thorough understanding of ECCS performance is critical to the staff's review; however, since review of the U.S. EPR standard design certification application has been suspended at the applicant's request, any report filed under 10 CFR 50.46 would not be reviewed until such time as the design certification review is reactivated. Framatome has committed to submit the required report before requesting that the NRC reactivate its review of the design certification. Submitting a report under 50.46(a)(3)(iii) before the resumption of any review of the design certification is sufficient to meet the underlying purpose of the regulation. Submitting annual reports for the years 2024 through 2028 while the review is suspended is not necessary to meet the underlying purpose of the regulation.

The preparation of reports required by 10 CFR 50.46(a)(3)(iii) is time consuming and requires resources to review and document the condition reports for any change to or error in an acceptable evaluation model or in the application of such a model. As such, requiring Framatome to submit annual 10 CFR 50.46 reports that would not be reviewed would be to subject them to an undue hardship that is significantly in excess of those contemplated when the regulation was adopted.

For the above stated reasons, special circumstances are present under 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(i) and 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(iii).

#### *Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion From Environmental Review*

With respect to the exemption's impact on the quality of the human environment, the NRC has determined that this specific exemption request is eligible for categorical exclusion as identified in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(25) provided that:

(i) There is no significant hazards consideration;

The criteria for determining whether there is no significant hazards consideration are found in 10 CFR 50.92(c). The proposed action involves only a schedule change regarding the submission of a report on errors or changes in the ECCS analysis for a standard design certification application review which is currently suspended. Therefore, there is no significant hazards consideration because granting the proposed exemption would not:

(1) Involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or

(2) Create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or

(3) Involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

(ii) There is no significant change in the types or significant increase in the amounts of any effluents that may be released offsite;

The proposed action involves only a schedule change, which is administrative in nature and does not involve any changes to be made in the types or significant increase in the amounts of effluents that may be released offsite.

(iii) There is no significant increase in individual or cumulative public or occupational radiation exposure;

Since the proposed action involves only a schedule change, which is administrative in nature, it does not contribute to any significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure.

(iv) There is no significant construction impact;

The proposed action involves only a schedule change which is administrative in nature; the application is for a standard design certification the review of which is suspended until further notice. No application for construction or operation has been filed. Accordingly, the proposed action does not involve any construction impact.

(v) There is no significant increase in the potential for or consequences from radiological accidents;

The proposed action involves only a schedule change which is administrative in nature and does not impact the probability or consequences of accidents.

(vi) The requirements from which an exemption is sought involve:

(1) Reporting requirements;

The exemption request involves submitting a report required by 10 CFR 50.46(a)(3)(iii);

and

(2) Scheduling requirements;

The proposed exemption relieves the applicant from submitting the required reports for the years 2024 through 2028.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), the exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. Also, special circumstances, as defined by 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2), are present. Therefore, the

Commission hereby grants Framatome an extension to the exemption from the reporting requirements of 10 CFR 50.46(a)(3)(iii) until December 31, 2028. This exemption provides that Framatome shall submit a report under 10 CFR 50.46(a)(3)(iii) before making any request that the NRC resume its review of the U.S. EPR standard design certification application and that Framatome shall update that report or take other appropriate actions no later than December 31, 2028.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22, the Commission has determined that the exemption request meets the applicable categorical exclusion criteria set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(25), and the granting of this exemption will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of December 2024.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Michele Sampson,**

*Director, Division of New and Renewed Licenses, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

[FR Doc. 2024–30365 Filed 12–19–24; 8:45 am]

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## **OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT**

### **Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee**

#### **Virtual Public Meeting**

**AGENCY:** Office of Personnel Management.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** According to the provisions of section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, notice is hereby given that a virtual meeting of the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2025. There will be no in-person gathering for this meeting.

The Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee is composed of a Chair, five representatives from labor unions holding exclusive bargaining rights for Federal prevailing rate employees, and five representatives from Federal agencies.

The Committee's primary responsibility is to review the Prevailing Rate System and other matters pertinent to establishing prevailing rates, and from time to time advise the Office of Personnel Management.

Annually, the Chair compiles a report of pay issues discussed and concluded