

N61. EDF TO PLACE BULK ORDER FOR STEAM GENERATOR REPLACEMENT

Electricite de France (EdF) will order fifteen 900-MW-class replacement steam generators from Framatome by the end of this year. Framatome has already started fabricating some of the new units. EdF plans to conduct its next replacement in 1993. The next unit to receive new steam generators is tentatively scheduled to be Bugey.

French nuclear regulatory authorities are encouraging EdF in its policy of ordering steam generators ahead of time so that they will be ready for immediate installation in case existing steam generators fail unexpectedly, or tube degradation develops excessively. EdF has decided to respect its long time policy of technical stages in ordering steam generators. This policy means spreading one design over a series of several identical units rather than having each unit incorporate the latest developments. Nevertheless, there are some significant changes in the design. The most notable change compared to the older steam generators is the choice of Inconel 690 as tube material.

There are also some important changes in the fabrication process. Hydraulic rather than mechanical expansion is used to lodge tubes in the tube sheets, and the channel heads undergo electrolytic polishing to limit worker doses during maintenance operations. Moreover, improvements in machinery have made it possible to fabricate the entire steam generator via forging, instead of casting or welding.

For more, see Nucleonics Week, December 13, 1990, McGraw-Hill Publications, New York.