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Michael A. Krupa
Director
Nuclear Safety & Licensing

March 5, 2001

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn.: Document Control Desk
Mail Stop OP1-17
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Entergy Operations, Inc.
Implementation of Revised 10CFR50.59

Arkansas Nuclear One - Units 1 & 2
Docket Nos. 50-313 & 50-368
License Nos. DPR-51 & NPF-6

Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
Docket No. 50-416
License No. NPF-29

River Bend Station
Docket No. 50-458
License No. NPF-47

Waterford Steam Electric Station – Unit 3
Docket No. 50-382
License No. NPF-38

CNRO-2001-00007

The effective date for the revised 10CFR50.59 was established in a December 13, 2000, *Federal Register* notice (65 FR 77773), as March 13, 2001. As discussed in Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2001-03, dated January 23, 2001, the NRC has stated that to permit an orderly transition to the revised rule, licensees may implement the rule later than this date. Although an exemption is not necessary, the RIS suggested that a licensee might communicate its implementation plan to the NRC.

It is Entergy's intention to implement the revised 10CFR50.59 on June 4, 2001 at Arkansas Nuclear One – Units 1 and 2, River Bend Station, and Waterford Steam Electric Station – Unit 3. Grand Gulf Nuclear Station plans to implement the revised rule on July 2, 2001. Those evaluations begun before these dates will be processed and completed in accordance with the old rule. Entergy will follow the requirements of the new rule for evaluations begun after these dates.

These dates were selected based on upcoming refueling outage schedules and the desire to implement the requirements of the new rule at all four sites around the same time. To implement at the current March 13, 2001 date would place additional demands on plant staff personnel while preparing for refueling outages and would not be in the best interests of effective scheduling of site resources. Entergy recognizes that the new 50.59 rule is primarily a relaxation and does not impact overall 50.59 review quality for determining the

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need for NRC license amendment submittals. By postponing implementation, Entergy can make an orderly transition from the old rule to the new rule and minimize the impact such changes will have on plant staff personnel.

Should you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Guy Davant at (601) 368-5756.

This letter contains no commitments.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. G. Anderson for". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

MAK/GHD/baa

cc: Mr. C. G. Anderson (N-GSB)
Mr. W. A. Eaton (G-ESC3-VPO)
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