

April 9, 2001

Mr. William A. Eaton
Vice President, Operations GGNS
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 756
Port Gibson, MS 39150

SUBJECT: GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1 - ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT RELATED TO
ISSUANCE OF EXEMPTION TO 10 CFR 50.71(e)(1) (TAC NO. MB1455)

Dear Mr. Eaton:

Enclosed is a copy of the "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" related to your application for exemption dated November 28, 2000, for Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit 1. The proposed exemption would exempt Entergy Operations, Inc. (the licensee), from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(1), which requires the licensee to submit updates of their Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and instead update their UFSAR via a publicly available Internet website in accordance with the frequency outlined in 10 CFR 50.71(e).

This assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

/RA/

S. Patrick Sekerak, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-416

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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Grand Gulf Nuclear Station

cc:

Executive Vice President
& Chief Operating Officer
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 31995
Jackson, MS 39286-1995

Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway
P. O. Box 651
Jackson, MS 39205

Winston & Strawn
1400 L Street, N.W. - 12th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Director
Division of Solid Waste Management
Mississippi Department of Natural
Resources
P. O. Box 10385
Jackson, MS 39209

President
Claiborne County Board of Supervisors
P. O. Box 339
Port Gibson, MS 39150

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, TX 76011

Senior Resident Inspector
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 399
Port Gibson, MS 39150

General Manager, GGNS
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 756
Port Gibson, MS 39150

Attorney General
Department of Justice
State of Louisiana
P. O. Box 94005
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9005

State Health Officer
State Board of Health
P. O. Box 1700
Jackson, MS 39205

Office of the Governor
State of Mississippi
Jackson, MS 39201

Attorney General
Asst. Attorney General
State of Mississippi
P. O. Box 22947
Jackson, MS 39225

Vice President, Operations Support
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 31995
Jackson, MS 39286-1995

Director, Nuclear Safety Assurance
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 756
Port Gibson, MS 39150

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ENTERGY OPERATIONS, INC.

DOCKET NO. 50-416

GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF

NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of an exemption from 10 CFR Part 50.71(e)(1) for Facility Operating License No. NPF-29 issued to Entergy Operations, Inc., the licensee, for operation of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station (GGNS), Unit 1, located in Claiborne County, Mississippi.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Identification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action would allow the licensee to revise the GGNS, Unit 1, Updated Final Safety Analysis Report (UFSAR) via the World Wide Web (WWW), and discontinue paper submittals of the updates to the NRC. The UFSAR would be maintained and updated on the WWW in accordance with the frequency outlined in 10 CFR Part 50.71(e).

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated November 28, 2000.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is needed to reduce and eliminate technical issues related to the present submission of UFSAR updates via CD-ROM. It would also improve public access to the GGNS, Unit 1, UFSAR.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The NRC has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that the proposed action is administrative in nature and unrelated to plant operations.

The proposed action will not significantly increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the NRC concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the “no-action” alternative). Denial of the application would result in no change in current environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternative action are similar.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the GGNS, Unit 1, dated September 1981, in NUREG-0777.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy on March 30, 2001, the staff consulted with the Mississippi State official, Robert W. Goff, of the Mississippi Department of Health, Division of Radiological Health, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the NRC concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the NRC has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated November 28, 2000. Documents may be examined, and/or copied for a fee, at the NRC's Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, Maryland. Publicly available records will be accessible electronically from the ADAMS Public Library component on the NRC Web site, <http://www.nrc.gov> (the Electronic Reading Room).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 9th day of April, 2001.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

Stuart A. Richards, Director
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation