

Mr. Michael A. Krupa, Director  
Nuclear Safety & Licensing  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
1340 Echelon Parkway  
Jackson, MS 39213-8298

November 7, 2003

SUBJECT: WATERFORD STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 3 (WATERFORD 3) -  
RELAXATION REQUEST FROM U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY  
COMMISSION (NRC) ORDER EA-03-009 FOR THE INCORE  
INSTRUMENTATION (ICI) NOZZLES (TAC NO. MC0812)

Dear Mr. Krupa:

By letter dated October 24, 2003, which superceded letters dated September 18, 24, and 26, and October 2 and 8, 2003, you requested relaxation to implement an alternative to the requirements of Section IV, Paragraph C.(1)(b)(i), of the Order for all ICI nozzles. Specifically, pursuant to the process specified in Section IV, Paragraph F of the Order, you requested relaxation from the requirement specified in Section IV, Paragraph C, Item (1)(b)(i), in order to perform inspections using a combination of ultrasonic testing and surface examination methods for the counterbore and nozzle-bottom regions of the ICI nozzles.

The NRC staff has completed its review and concludes that the proposed alternative examination methods for the reactor pressure vessel head provides reasonable assurance of structural integrity of the head. For the counterbore region, the staff concludes that further inspection of the head surface in accordance with Section IV.C.(1)(b)(i) of the Order would result in hardship without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety. For the nozzle-bottom region, the staff concludes that the proposed alternative provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. Thus, you have demonstrated good cause for the requested relaxation. Therefore, pursuant to Section IV, Paragraph F of the Order and 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3), I authorize, for one operating cycle commencing with the startup from the fall 2003 refueling outage, the proposed alternative inspection for all ICI head penetration nozzles at Waterford 3. The staff's related Safety Evaluation (SE) is enclosed.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790, we have determined that the enclosed SE does not contain proprietary information. However, we will delay placing the SE in the public document room for ten working days from the date of this letter to provide you with the opportunity to comment on the proprietary aspects only. If you believe that any information in the enclosure is proprietary, please identify such information line by line and define the basis pursuant to the criteria of 10 CFR 2.790.

Be aware that when vessel head inspections are performed using American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (Code) requirements,

acceptance criteria, or qualified personnel, those activities and all related activities fall within the jurisdiction of the ASME Code. Therefore, Order-related inspection activities may be subject to third party review, including those by the Authorized Nuclear Inservice Inspector.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Herbert N. Berkow, Director  
Project Directorate IV  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-382

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/o Encl: See next page

acceptance criteria, or qualified personnel, those activities and all related activities fall within the jurisdiction of the ASME Code. Therefore, Order-related inspection activities may be subject to third party review, including those by the Authorized Nuclear Inservice Inspector.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Herbert N. Berkow, Director  
Project Directorate IV  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-382

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation

cc w/o Encl: See next page

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PDIV-1 Reading

RidsNrrDlpmLpdiv (HBerkow)

RidsNrrDlpmLpdiv1(RGramm)

RidsRgn4MailCenter (AHowell)

RidsOgcRp

RidsAcrsAcnwMailCenter

GHill (2)

RDavis

RidsNrrPM(NKalyanam)

RidsNrrPM(TAlexion)

RidsNrrLA(DJohnson)

ABoland, OEDO/RIV Plants

Package: ML033140243

Accession No. ML033140232

Safety Evaluation: ML033140248

\*No legal objection

OFFICE	PDIV-1/PM	PDIV-1/LA	EMCB/SC	OGC*	PDIV-1/SC	PDIV-1/D
NAME	TAlexion	DJohnson	TChan	MYoung	RGramm	HBerkow
DATE	11/05/03	11/5/03	11/06/03	11/6/03	11/7/03	11/05/03

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3

cc:

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