

October 28, 2005

Mr. Michael R. Kansler
President
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING TECHNICAL
SPECIFICATION CHANGES FOR THE ROD WORTH MINIMIZER (TAC
NO. MC7055)

Dear Mr. Kansler:

By letter dated May 24, 2005, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. submitted an amendment request to revise Technical Specification 3.3.F, "Rod Worth Minimizer."

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has been reviewing the submittal and has determined that additional information is needed to complete its review. The specific questions are found in the enclosed request for additional information (RAI). A response to this RAI is requested to be provided within 45 days.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James J. Shea, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-293

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. Michael R. Kansler
President
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
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DATE	10/27/05	10/28/05	10/28/05	10/28/05

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REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

REGARDING TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGES FOR THE ROD WORTH MINIMIZER

ENTERGY NUCLEAR OPERATIONS, INC.

PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION

DOCKET NO. 50-293

By letter dated May 24, 2005, Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. submitted an amendment request to revise Technical Specification (TS) 3.3.F, "Rod Worth Minimizer." The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has the following questions regarding the information provided:

1. Your May 24, 2005, submittal did not include clean copies of the proposed TS pages. Please provide clean copies of the revised TS pages.
2. You propose to change words in TS 3.3.F.A.2.1 from "12 months" to "calendar year." What is the functional difference between "12 months" and a "calendar year"? Provide an example of how the rod worth minimizer (RWM) not being inoperable in the last 12 months is different from it not being inoperable in the last calendar year.
3. Previously, your TS required that if the RWM failed during startup, you must immediately suspend control rod movement except by scram. However, you were allowed to move rods in compliance with banked position withdrawal sequences (BPWS) by using verification from a second licensed operator or other qualified member of the technical staff, as long as startup with the RWM inoperable has not been performed in the last 12 months. Your proposed TS no longer requires the restriction that startup with the RWM inoperable has not been performed in the last 12 months. Your proposed TS would allow you to move rods in compliance with BPWS with the RWM inoperable as long as 12 or more rods have been withdrawn. Provide a technical basis explaining how no longer requiring the restriction that startup with RWM inoperable has not been performed in the last 12 months does not adversely impact safety.

Enclosure

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

cc:

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