

August 7, 2006

Lawrence G. McDade, Chair
Administrative Judge
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mail Stop: T-3F23
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dr. Richard Wardwell
Administrative Judge
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In the Matter of
SYSTEM ENERGY RESOURCES, INC.
(Early Site Permit for Grand Gulf ESP Site)
Docket No. 52-009-ESP

Dear Administrative Judges:

In accordance with the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Order (Establishing Tentative Case Schedule), dated August 1, 2006 (Order at 2, n.1), the NRC Staff hereby provides an index of the documents the Staff provided to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) for ACRS consideration in accordance with 10 C.F.R. § 52.23. These documents are: (1) a draft "Safety Evaluation Report [(SER)] for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the Grand Gulf Site," dated April 7, 2005 (DSER) (ADAMS Accession No. ML050910331); (2) a "Safety Evaluation Report for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the Grand Gulf Site," dated October 21, 2005 (ADAMS Accession No. ML052860041); (3) a Memorandum dated March 27, 2006, from David A. Matthews, Director, Division of New Reactor Licensing, NRC, to John Larkins, Executive Director, ACRS, in which the Staff addressed the ACRS comments on the October 2005 SER (ADAMS Accession No. ML060790302); and (4) the documents in the indexes submitted with the enclosures to the Staff letter dated June 12, 2006 from Ann P. Hodgdon, NRC Staff Counsel, to the Board (these documents included, *inter alia*, Staff-prepared meeting slides and Staff letters to the ACRS). Item (3) is bound into Appendix E of NUREG-1840, "Safety Evaluation Report for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the Grand Gulf Site," dated April 2006, which the Staff submitted to the Board by a letter dated May 9, 2006, from Robert M. Weisman, NRC Staff Counsel.

In further satisfaction of this provision of the Order, the Staff hereby provides an index of the documents relating to the Grand Gulf ESP application the Staff received from the ACRS. These documents are: (1) a letter dated June 14, 2005, from Dr. Graham B. Wallis, Chairman, ACRS, to Luis A. Reyes, Executive Director for Operations (EDO), NRC (ADAMS Accession No. ML051650415); (2) a letter dated December 23, 2005, from Dr. Graham B. Wallis, Chairman, ACRS, to Luis A. Reyes, EDO, NRC (ADAMS Accession No. ML053620401); and

(3) a letter dated April 14, 2006, from Dr. Graham B. Wallis, Chairman, ACRS, to Luis A. Reyes, EDO, NRC (ADAMS Accession No. ML061060003). The Staff previously transmitted Item (1) to the Board in the enclosures to its letter to the Board dated June 12, 2006. Inasmuch as items (2) and (3) are bound into Appendix E of NUREG-1840, the Staff has already transmitted them to the Board in its letter dated May 9, 2006. The Staff is not aware of any other documents relating to the Grand Gulf ESP application received from the ACRS, or which the Staff provided to the ACRS. For the Board's convenience, the Staff has reproduced the above two lists as a single index in the Enclosure to this letter. The Staff has provided four paper copies and one electronic copy of this enclosure.

The Staff notes that the DSER dated April 2005 is an early version of the SER with open items that allowed the ACRS to begin its in-depth review of the application and the Staff's preliminary determinations and conclusions on the application. The Staff incorporated the entire evaluation documented in the DSER into the SER dated October 2005, although the Staff, in preparing the October 2005 SER, closed all open items identified in the DSER, corrected errors, and made minor editorial revisions throughout the entire document. As such, the DSER dated March 2005 has been entirely superceded by subsequent documents.

Similarly, the Staff provided the October 2005 SER to the ACRS so the ACRS could complete its review. In light of the ACRS comments documented in the ACRS letter bound into NUREG-1840 and information provided by the Applicant to address these ACRS comments, the Staff performed additional substantive evaluation of the application. The Staff's additional evaluations are reflected in Section 2.2.3 of NUREG-1840, which discusses human-related hazards. Specifically, the additional Staff evaluation relates to hazards from materials shipped on the Mississippi River. In preparing the October 2005 SER for publication as NUREG-1840, the Staff also corrected several minor errors and made minor editorial changes.

As described above, both the April 2005 DSER and the October 2005 SER have been entirely superceded by NUREG-1840. Further, since the Board did not request documents the Staff submitted to the ACRS (Order at 2, n.1), the Staff has not enclosed the April 2005 DSER or the October 2005 SER with this letter. The Staff is nonetheless prepared to provide these documents to the Board on very short notice should the Board so desire.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert M. Weisman
Counsel for the NRC Staff

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: Kathryn M Sutton, Esq.
Paul Bessette, Esq.
Debra A. Wolf, Esq.

Office of the Secretary
Office of Commission Appellate Adjudication

**ENCLOSURE TO STAFF LETTER DATED AUGUST 7, 2006
TO BOARD PRESIDING OVER PROCEEDING ON
GRAND GULF ESP APPLICATION**

INDEX OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE NRC STAFF TO THE ACRS:

- (1) Draft "Safety Evaluation Report [(SER)] for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the Grand Gulf Site," dated April 7, 2005 (DSER);
- (2) "Safety Evaluation Report for an Early Site Permit (ESP) at the Grand Gulf Site," dated October 21, 2005;
- (3) Memorandum dated March 27, 2006, from David A. Matthews, Director, Division of New Reactor Licensing, NRC, to John Larkins, Executive Director, ACRS, in which the Staff addressed the ACRS comments on the October 2005 SER (bound into NUREG-1840); and
- (4) the documents in the indexes submitted with the enclosures to the Staff letter dated June 12, 2006 from Ann P. Hodgdon, NRC Staff Counsel, to the Board, as follows:

Index 1: Documents Related to ACRS Meetings:

- Section 1: May 16, 2005 ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on the Grand Gulf Early Site Permit (ESP) Draft Safety Evaluation Report (DSER)
 - I. Meeting Minutes - Will be put in ADAMS soon
 - II. Applicant Slides* - ML051470274
 - III. DSER Open Item Matrix* - ML051470274
 - IV. Staff Slides* - ML051470274
- Section 2: June 2, 2005 ACRS Full Committee Meeting on the Grand Gulf ESP DSER
 - I. June 14, 2005, ACRS Interim Letter on the Grand Gulf ESP DSER - ML052070454
 - II. August 12, 2005, Staff Response to ACRS Interim Letter - ML0522101640
 - III. Meeting Minutes - ML052230039
 - IV. Applicant Slides* - ML051640466
 - V. DSER Open Item Matrix* - ML051640466
 - VI. Staff Slides* - ML051640466
- Section 3: December 8, 2005 ACRS Full Committee Meeting on the Grand Gulf ESP FSER
 - I. December 23, 2005, ACRS Final Letter on the Grand Gulf ESP FSER - ML053610281
 - II. February 1, 2006, Staff Response to ACRS Final Letter - ML060190223
 - III. Meeting Minutes - ML060580193
 - IV. Applicant Slides* - ML053500381
 - V. Staff Slides* - ML053500381

- Section 4: April 6, 2006 ACRS Full Committee Meeting on the Grand Gulf ESP FSER Site Hazards Analysis Issue
 - I. April 14, 2006, ACRS Supplemental Final Letter on the Grand Gulf ESP FSER - ML061080344
 - II. May 18, 2006, Staff Response to ACRS Supplemental Final Letter - ML061220330
 - III. Meeting Minutes - ML061510004
 - IV. Staff Slides* - ML061110209

*Documents associated with the ACRS Meeting (Slides, Handouts, etc.) are in the Transcript files

Index 2: ACRS Meeting Transcripts

- Section 1: Transcripts for May 16, 2005 ACRS Subcommittee Meeting on the Grand Gulf Early Site Permit (ESP) Draft Safety Evaluation Report (DSER) - ML051470274
- Section 2: Transcripts for June 2, 2005 ACRS Full Committee Meeting on the Grand Gulf ESP DSER - ML051640466
- Section 3: Transcripts for December 8, 2005 ACRS Full Committee Meeting on the Grand Gulf ESP FSER - ML053500381
- Section 4: Transcripts for April 6, 2006 ACRS Full Committee Meeting on the Grand Gulf ESP FSER Site Hazards Analysis Issue - ML061110209

INDEX OF DOCUMENTS THE STAFF RECEIVED FROM THE ACRS:

- (1) Letter dated June 14, 2005, from Dr. Graham B. Wallis, Chairman, ACRS, to Luis A. Reyes, EDO, NRC;
- (2) Letter dated December 23, 2005, from Dr. Graham B. Wallis, Chairman, ACRS, to Luis A. Reyes, EDO, NRC, which is bound into NUREG-1840 as part of Appendix E; and
- (3) Letter dated April 14, 2006, from Dr. Graham B. Wallis, Chairman, ACRS, to Luis A. Reyes, EDO, NRC.

The Staff has already transmitted these documents the Board by letters dated May 9, 2006 (Items 2 and 3) and June 12, 2006 (Item 1)