



# MISSISSIPPI POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

*Helping Build Mississippi*

P. O. BOX 1640, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205

September 25, 1979

NORRIS L. STAMPLEY

VICE PRESIDENT

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
Washington, D. C. 20555

ATTENTION: Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director

Dear Mr. Denton:

SUBJECT: Grand Gulf Nuclear Station  
Units 1 & 2  
Docket Nos. 50-416 & 50-417  
File 0260/0272/0600  
Extension of Construction  
Permit Completion Dates  
AECM-79/107

In response to your letter dated August 2, 1979 concerning extension of construction permit completion dates, Mississippi Power & Light Company for itself and on behalf of Middle South Energy, Inc. herewith files the following request to amend the present earliest and latest completion dates for Construction Permits CPPR-118 and CPPR-119. This letter updates and expands the information provided in our letter AECM-79/98 of August 31, 1979. Enclosed are fifteen copies and three notarized originals of this letter.

## Amended Completion Dates

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>
CPPR-118	September 1, 1980	March 1, 1982
CPPR-119	April 1, 1983	October 1, 1984

In support of this extension request, the following information is provided:

### Unit 1 Extension

During the early construction phase of Grand Gulf Unit 1, several factors began adversely affecting our construction schedule. Therefore, in order to determine the impact of these factors, we conducted a detailed evaluation of the construction schedule in mid-1975 and again in late 1976. The results of these evaluations showed that the earliest completion date for Unit 1 was not realistic and that it should be changed from April 1, 1979 to September 1, 1980. This seventeen month extension consists of the following factors:

1. Limited Work Authorization (LWA) delay (1 month). The original construction schedule was based on the expected receipt of an LWA in early April, 1974. However, due to recent changes in regulatory requirements, the LWA was not issued until May, 1974, thus delaying the start of construction by one month.

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2. Adverse Weather Conditions (3 months). During the period from Summer, 1974 thru early Spring, 1975, the site experienced unusually heavy rainfall. These adverse weather conditions severely impaired movement and efficiency of heavy equipment which were at that time heavily involved in site excavations.
3. Labor Strike (2 months). During July and August, 1975 a labor strike virtually halted all construction progress.
4. Design Modifications (3 months). Numerous design modifications occurred during the 1974-1976 time frame which had a severe effect on construction progress. Noteworthy items include: modifications to the drywell wall, suppression pool and RPV pedestal and modifications due to NRC review of suppression pool swell phenomenon. All but approximately three months of this delay has been regained due to various construction recovery plans.
5. Bulk Commodities Delays (8 months). One of the major assumptions in the original schedule was the ability to install bulk commodities (concrete, large and small pipe, conduit and cable tray, wire and cable) at a high rate for an extended period of time. However, the actual installation rate has been less than the assumed rate due to the following: lack of the proper level of skilled labor, late completion of the structures into which the commodities were to be installed and late delivery of some commodities to the jobsite.

### Unit 2 Extension

Concurrent with the Unit 1 schedule evaluation, the Unit 2 schedule was also examined. This examination indicated that the earliest completion date for Unit 2 should be extended from October 1, 1980 to April 1, 1983. This thirty-month delay consists of the following factors:

1. Financial and Power Generation Requirements (24 months). In mid-1975, Middle South Utilities, Inc. announced its decision to delay construction of Grand Gulf Unit 2. The factors considered in making the decision included inflation, cost and availability of capital, cost of accommodating environmental requirements, reappraisal of electric load growth, and the impact of price elasticity and conservation upon energy usage.
2. Construction Experience on Unit 1 (6 months). By late 1976, it was realized that the construction schedule for Unit 2, like Unit 1, was optimistic. However, it was felt that lessons learned on Unit 1 would offset some of the potential slippage on Unit 2; hence, only a six-month extension was attributed to this factor.

### Early-Late Completion Dates, Unit 1

Since our original estimate of a six-month window, several factors have been introduced which add to the uncertainties associated with the earliest completion date for Unit 1. The requested eighteen-month window consists of the following factors:

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1. Schedule Uncertainties (6 months). This factor is associated with the probabilities and confidence levels in the predicted milestones and, hence, the overall schedule.
2. Licensing Uncertainties (12 months). This factor relates to the uncertainty associated with the resolution dates of such issues as lead plant containment loads and Three Mile Island impacts. Additionally, there is a major uncertainty with respect to the level of manpower which the NRC will devote to the Grand Gulf licensing review.

## Early-Late Completion Dates, Unit 2

Although it is too early to estimate all the uncertainties associated with the Unit 2 schedule, we have assumed an eighteen month window for Unit 2 to be consistent with the Unit 1 estimate.

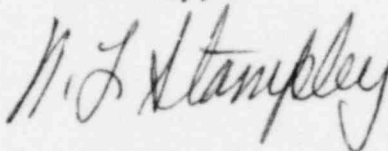
## Safety Significance of the Extension

With the exception of design changes, the factors contributing to the extension are not unlike those experienced by other large nuclear and non-nuclear construction projects. The design changes summarized above have been documented in our Safety Analysis reports for NRC review and do not represent any departure from the current licensing basis for Grand Gulf. Hence, the extension will not introduce any new safety issues.

## Environmental Impact of the Extension

The major impacts of the extension are the reduction in Middle South System reserve margin and the increased use of fuel oil to meet System requirements; these items are discussed in Environmental Report Section 1.3. An additional impact results from the fact that the construction conditions discussed throughout the Environmental Report will continue to exist for a longer period of time. Hence, the extension will not introduce any new environmental issues.

Sincerely,



MJD/PVH:pa

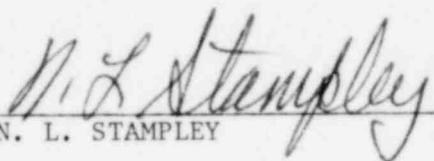
cc: Mr. R. B. McGehee  
Mr. T. B. Conner

Mr. Victor Stello, Jr., Director  
Division of Inspection & Enforcement  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

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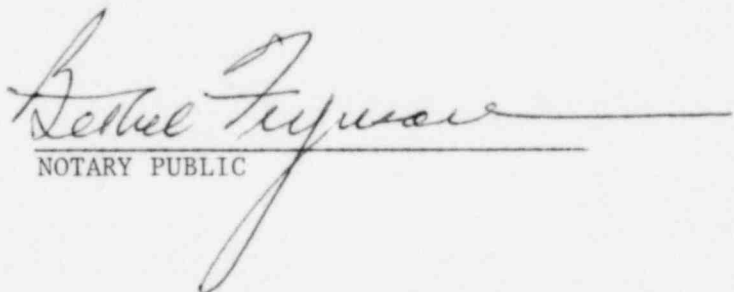
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
COUNTY OF HINDS

N. L. Stampley, being duly sworn, states that he is a Vice President of Mississippi Power & Light Company, and that he is authorized on the part of said Company and of Middle South Energy, Inc. to sign and file with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission this request for extension of construction permits CPPR-118 and CPPR-119; that he signed the foregoing request as Vice President of Mississippi Power & Light Company and as agent for Middle South Energy, Inc., and that the statements made and the matters set forth therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief.

  
N. L. STAMPLEY

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me, a Notary Public, in and for the County and State above named, this 25 day of September, 1979.

(SEAL)

  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires:

My Commission Expires July 23, 1983.