

August 27, 1985

Docket No. 50-416

Mr. Jackson B. Richard
Senior Vice President, Nuclear
Mississippi Power & Light Company
P.O. Box 23054
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Mr. Richard:

Subject: Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit 1 Surveillance Testing of Fuses
Used As Overcurrent Protection Devices For Containment Penetrations

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By letter dated January 5, 1985, Mississippi Power & Light Company (MP&L) provided its position on surveillance testing of fuses which are used as overcurrent protection for containment electrical penetrations. The BWR Standard Technical Specifications (STS) NUREG 0123 Rev. 3, include a surveillance requirement to periodically measure fuse resistance as a means of determining its capability to clear a fault in the electrical circuit. In its January 5 letter, MP&L questioned the need for this testing and provided additional information regarding its position that such fuses not be tested.

The NRC staff has reevaluated the requirement in the BWR STS and concluded that testing of fuses used for overcurrent protection of containment electrical penetration should not be required and that it should be deleted from the STS. The bases for this conclusion are that operational experience indicates the protection capability of current limiting fuses does not decrease with service life, such tests are not meaningful, and additional handling may compromise fuse integrity.

Accordingly, the staff accepts MP&L's position that surveillance testing of fuses used for overcurrent protection of containment electrical penetrations will not be performed in Grand Gulf Unit 1. However, MP&L should include in appropriate plant procedures a means for periodically verifying that correct fuse sizes are installed.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Novak
Thomas M. Novak, Assistant Director
for Licensing
Division of Licensing

cc: See next page

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