



50-313

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 28, 1997

Jerrold G. Dewease
Vice President Operations Support
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 31955
Jackson, MS 39266-1995

SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF ENTERGY OPERATION, INC., REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO UPDATE INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAMS TO THE 1992 AND PORTIONS OF THE 1993 ASME BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL CODE, SECTION XI FOR ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNITS 1 AND 2, GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, RIVER BEND STATION, AND WATERFORD STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 3, (TAC NOS. M94472, M94471, M94454, M94473, AND M94488)

Dear Mr. Dewease:

On December 12, 1996, we issued the approval of the inservice inspection (ISI) program plans for the Entergy Operations, Inc. (EOI) sites in the above subject. EOI, in your letter dated July 12, 1996, had also requested relief for the snubber program and had advised us that Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1 (ANO-1) intends to use the provisions allowed in 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(2)(ii) for pressure-retaining welds in American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code Class 1 piping (B-J welds).

We have completed our review of the snubber programs for the above plants during the current intervals. These snubber programs have been previously approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). EOI is proposing to continue to implement the current programs as alternatives to the snubber requirements which specify the ASME Code, Section XI, 1989 Edition for the next intervals.

Based on the information provided in the July 12, 1996, EOI submittal, the staff has determined that the current EOI programs for snubbers will still be acceptable to the NRC for the next intervals based on: (1) the current EOI snubber programs are as adequate as the requirements specified in ASME Code, Section XI, 1989 Edition, which is the latest ASME Code edition officially approved by the NRC; and (2) any substantial safety improvements would be separately addressed by the upcoming rulemaking.

It should be noted that, in regard to the snubber program, the upcoming rule changes may limit the use of the ASME/OM Code, Section ISTD, to only the 1995 Edition with 1996 Addenda, which contains the updated snubber program requirements of the industry at this time. The issuance of the revised rule for public comment is now imminent. Requiring EOI to update the snubber programs for the above mentioned plants prior to the issuance of the final rule change to 10 CFR 50.55a in lieu of the current snubber program, would not provide an increase in the level of quality and safety.

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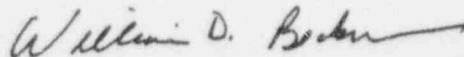
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Based on the above evaluation, we conclude that the EOI's use of its current snubber programs will provide an acceptable level of quality and safety for the next intervals. While EOI also expressed the desire, in the future, to create consistent snubber programs at each of the sites, any changes of snubber programs should be performed through the 10 CFR 50.55a or the 10 CFR 50.59 process, as applicable.

Additionally, the letter dated July 12, 1996, contained a statement regarding the use of provisions allowed in 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(2)(ii) for Class 1 pressure retaining welds for ANO-1. This portion of the regulations allows licensees with facilities having construction permits docketed prior to July 1, 1978, to use the ASME Code Section XI, 1974 Edition through 1975 Addenda. If the licensee intends to use these provisions, no deviation from regulatory requirements is noted, and therefore, the staff finds this acceptable and no evaluation is necessary for this purpose.

Sincerely,



William D. Beckner, Director
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-313, 50-368, 50-416,
50-458, and 50-382

cc: See next page

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Additionally, the letter dated July 12, 1996, contained a statement regarding the use of provisions allowed in 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(2)(ii) for Class 1 pressure retaining welds for ANO-1. This portion of the regulations allows licensees with facilities having construction permits docketed prior to July 1, 1978, to use the ASME Code Section XI, 1974 Edition through 1975 Addenda. If the licensee intends to use these provisions, no deviation from regulatory requirements is noted, and therefore, the staff finds this acceptable and no evaluation is necessary for this purpose.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

William D. Beckner, Director
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-313, 50-368, 50-416,
50-458, and 50-382

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Docket File	PDIV-1 r/f	PUBLIC	CHawes
DWigginton	JRoe	EAdensam (EGA1)	GKalman
JDonohew	CPatel	AHowell, RIV	ACRS
OGC	WBeckner	EDO/RIV plants	GHill (10)

Document Name: EOI94472.LTR

*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

OFC	PM/PD4-1	(A) LA/PD4-1	ECGB*	OGC*	D/PD4-1
NAME	DWigginton/v	CHawes	GBagchi	STurk	WBeckner
DATE	2/25/97	2/28/97	01/31/97	02/11/97	2/28/97
COPY	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO

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