



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

June 13, 1997

EA 97-278

Charles M. Dugger, Vice President
Operations - Waterford 3
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box B
Killona, Louisiana 70066

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-382/97-13

Dear Mr. Dugger:

An NRC inspection was conducted June 2-6, 1997, of activities associated with your Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3, reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection.

Based on the results of this inspection, two apparent violations were identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. The apparent violations discussed in the enclosed report are the failure to: (1) maintain containment isolation valves operable in accordance with Technical Specification 3.6.3, and (2) perform a safety evaluation to assess operating the plant in a condition other than described in the Updated Final Safety Analysis Report. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

A predecisional enforcement conference to discuss these apparent violations has been scheduled for 1:00 p.m. (CDT) on July 29, 1997. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference is being held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violation sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues, and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. In particular, we expect you to address information in your licensing basis used to establish your position that these containment isolation valves do not have a closed safety function. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on: (1) the severity of the violations, (2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed

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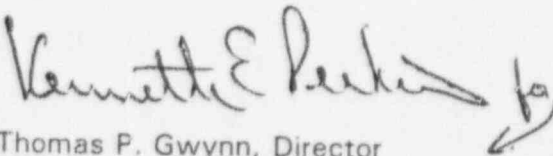
in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and (3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII.

You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter. No response regarding these apparent violations is required at this time.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,



Thomas P. Gwynn, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No.: 50-382
License No.: NPF-38

Enclosure:
NRC Inspection Report
50-382/97-13

cc w/enclosure:
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-3-

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E-Mail report to T. Boyce (THB)
 E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)
 E-Mail report to Document Control Desk (DOCDESK)

bcc to DCD (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

Regional Administrator

DRP Director

Branch Chief (DRP/D)

Project Engineer (DRP/D)

Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)

Enforcement Officer

Regional Counsel

J. Lieberman, OE (MS: 7-H5)

OE: EA File, (MS: 7-H5)

Resident Inspector

DRS-PSB

MIS System

RIV File

Leah Tremper (OC/LFDCB, MS: TWFN 9E10)

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GEWerner	PHHarrell	TPGwynn					
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IE01

Entergy Operations, Inc.

-4-

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