August 30, 2004

George A. Williams, Site Vice President
Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 756
Port Gibson, MS  39150

SUBJECT:  MIDCYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN -
GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION

Dear Mr. Williams:

On August 2, 2004, the NRC staff completed its midcycle plant performance assessment of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station. The midcycle review for Grand Gulf involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance for the first half of the calendar year 2004 assessment cycle. The process included a review of performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results over the previous 12 months. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections that may conflict with your plant activities.

This performance review and inspection plan does not include physical protection information. A separate letter designated and marked as “Exempt from Public Disclosure in Accordance with 10 CFR 2.390” will include the physical protection review and resultant inspection plan.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC’s Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct only reactor oversight process (ROP) baseline inspections at your facility through March 31, 2006.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, except those related to physical protection, scheduled through March 31, 2006. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last 12 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.
In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC’s “Rules of Practice,” a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC’s document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at 817/860-8148 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Johnson, Chief
Project Branch A
Division of Reactor Projects

Dockets: 50-416
Licenses: NPF-29

Enclosure:
Grand Gulf Nuclear Station Inspection/Activity Plan

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Staff Chief, DRP/TSS (PHH)
RITS Coordinator (KEG)

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V. Dricks, PAO (VLD)
W. Maier, RSLO (WAM)
C. Gordon (CJG)

DRS Branch Chiefs (LJS, MPS1, ATG, JAC)
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H. Berkow, Director, LPD4, NRR/DLPM (HNB)
R. Gramm, Chief, PDIV-1A, NRR/DLPM (RAG)
T. Alexion, NRR Project Manager (TWA)

ADAMS:  ✓ Yes □ No Initials: WDJ
✓ Publicly Available □ Non-Publicly Available □ Sensitive ✓ Non-Sensitive

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY T=Telephone E=E-mail F=Fax
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This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities. This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.