

May 16, 2008

Mr. Thomas L. Williamson
Manager, GGNS COLA Project
Entergy Nuclear
1340 Echelon Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213

SUBJECT: GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION UNIT 3 COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION
REVIEW SCHEDULE

Dear Mr. Williamson:

This letter transmits the Grand Gulf Unit 3 Combined License (COL) application review schedule. The environmental review supports the issuance of a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in May 2010. Milestones for the four phases of this review are provided in Table 1 of this letter. The safety review supports the issuance of a Final Safety Evaluation Report (FSER) in March 2011. Milestones for the six phases of this review are also provided in Table 1. The primary drivers and risks to this schedule are described below.

By letter dated February 27, 2008, and supplemented by letters dated April 9 and April 11, 2008, Entergy Operations Incorporated (EOI) tendered a combined license application (COLA) to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for a single unit economic simplified boiling water reactor (ESBWR) to be located at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station (GGNS) in accordance with the requirements contained in 10 CFR Part 52, "Licenses, Certifications and Approvals for Nuclear Power Plants." The staff informed you in an April 17, 2008, letter that we had completed our acceptance review and docketed your application in the Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML081050460.

In a public meeting on March 19, 2008, the staff discussed areas of the application review that could introduce some uncertainty into the review schedule. This issue involves the geology, seismology and geotechnical review as discussed below.

Highlights of the Safety Review and Schedule

For the Grand Gulf subsequent combined license (S-COL), the sections of Chapter 2 associated with geology, seismology and geotechnical engineering are on the critical path for the review. Specifically, you provided a recalculated Ground Motion Response Spectrum (GMRS), including substantial updates to the seismic source model, and use of a new approach (Method 3) not previously reviewed by the staff. Also, you did not reflect the changes in the subsurface stratigraphic definition in the COLA from the definitions which were previously provided in Sections 2.5.2 and 2.5.3 of the ESP. In your letter dated April 9, 2008, you submitted a summary statement that the conclusions of these ESP sections remain valid and verbally committed to provide revised sections of the COLA no later than June 16, 2008. In addition, you verbally committed to providing the staff with supplemental information describing your use of Method 3 no later than June 30, 2008. The schedule provided in this letter accounts for the scheduled submittal of this information. The review of COLA, Part 2, Section 2.5, is the critical path item for the Grand Gulf COLA review schedule.

The review of the ESBWR Design Control Document (DCD) by the NRC staff is ongoing. The Grand Gulf Unit 3 COL application incorporates by reference Revision 4 of the ESBWR DCD. In addition, the Grand Gulf Unit 3 COLA is the first S-COL in the ESBWR design-centered working group (DCWG) whose reference COL application (R-COL) is the Dominion COLA for North Anna. Thus, the Grand Gulf Unit 3 COL review schedule has dependencies on the ESBWR DCD and North Anna R-COL schedules. As an S-COL, the Grand Gulf Unit 3 review cannot be completed until after the R-COL review has been completed for the standard sections. Therefore, delays in the ESBWR DCD review schedule may result in delays to the North Anna R-COL review schedule, and thereby delays in the Grand Gulf Unit 3 S-COL schedule.

Highlights of the Environmental and Safety Reviews

Our review schedules assume that responses to RAIs will be complete and provide sufficient information to address the staff's concerns. We assumed in our schedules that RAI responses will be submitted within 30 days of receipt of RAIs related to areas that involve information specific to Grand Gulf Unit 3 and within 45 days of receipt of RAIs related to areas that involve standard content for all ESBWR COL applications.

The schedule does not currently include the hearing process. Should contentions be admitted, the review schedules in Table 1 may be impacted. Also, the mandatory hearing schedule will be developed by the Commission and the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board and thus is not included in Table 1 of this letter. Both the FEIS and the FSER will be used to support this hearing. As you know, the Commission will not make a determination on whether or not to issue the COL until this hearing is concluded.

The staff will review and re-baseline, if necessary, the Grand Gulf Unit 3 safety review schedule around the time the SER with open items (OIs) is issued. At this point, the staff will have a better idea of what target milestones are achievable given the number and complexity of the OIs. Similarly, the staff will review and re-baseline, if necessary, the Grand Gulf Unit 3 environmental review schedule soon after the public comment period ends. At this point, the staff will have a better idea if there are any issues that have been identified that could impact the schedule for the issuance of the FEIS. Of course, should any major revisions to the ESBWR DCD, the North Anna R-COL, or the Grand Gulf Unit 3 COLA occur, we will review and re-baseline schedules in response to those revisions, as necessary. At any time, feel free to discuss concerns with this schedule or any future proposed schedule with the staff.

T. Williamson

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Should you have any questions regarding the safety review, please contact Mr. Eric Oesterle, the lead project manager for the safety review for the Grand Gulf Unit 3 COLA, at (301) 415-1365 or Eric.Oesterle@nrc.gov. Effective June 1, 2008, Mr. Mark Tonacci will become the lead project manager for the safety review of the Grand Gulf Unit 3 COLA and may be reached at (301) 415-4045 or Mark.Tonacci@nrc.gov. If you have questions regarding the environmental review please contact Ms. Tamsen Dozier, the lead project manager for the environmental review of the Grand Gulf Unit 3 COLA, at (301) 415-2272 or email at Tamsen.Dozier@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Eric R. Oesterle, Senior Project Manager
ESBWR/ABWR Projects Branch 1
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-024

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Eric R. Oesterle, Senior Project Manager
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Docket No. 52-024

Enclosure:
 As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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Table 1: COL Review Schedule

<u>Phase of Safety Review</u>	<u>Target Completion Date</u>
P1 RAIs for all SER chapters	January 23, 2009
P2 SER with open items (OIs)	September 4, 2009
P3 Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) review of SER with OIs	December 2009
P4 Advanced SER with no OIs	September 2010
P5 ACRS review of Advanced SER with no OIs	January 2011
P6 Final SER issued	March 2011
<u>Phase of Environmental Review</u>	<u>Target Completion Date</u>
P1 Scoping	December 19, 2008
P2 Draft Environmental Impact Statement	May 19, 2009
P3 Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comment Period	November 3, 2009
P4 Final Environmental Impact Statement	May 2010

ENCLOSURE

COL - Grand Gulf Mailing List

(Revised 04/14/2008)

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