



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

December 16, 2011

Mr. Michael Perito
Vice President, Site
Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 756
Port Gibson, MS 39150

SUBJECT: DETERMINATION OF ACCEPTABILITY AND SUFFICIENCY FOR
DOCKETING, PROPOSED REVIEW SCHEDULE, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A
HEARING REGARDING THE APPLICATION FROM ENTERGY OPERATIONS,
INC., FOR RENEWAL OF THE OPERATING LICENSE FOR GRAND GULF
NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1

Dear Mr. Perito:

By letter dated October 28, 2011, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) received the Entergy Operations, Inc., application for renewal of Operating License NPF-29 for Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (GGNS). Notice of receipt of this application was published in the *Federal Register* on November 17, 2011 (76 FRN 71379). The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the staff's acceptance review of the license renewal application (LRA) for GGNS. The acceptance review determines whether the application contains sufficient information to allow the staff to proceed with the safety and environmental reviews.

The staff has reviewed your application following the guidance in NUREG-1800, Revision 2, "Standard Review Plan for Review of License Renewal Applications for Nuclear Power Plants," and NUREG-1555, "Standard Review Plans for Environmental Reviews for Nuclear Power Plants." As a result, the staff has determined that the application is sufficient and acceptable for docketing in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Sections 2.101, 51.45, 51.53(c), 54.19, 54.21, 54.22, and 54.23. However, the staff's determination does not preclude requests for additional information (RAIs) as the review proceeds.

This letter forwards the staff's safety and environmental review schedule for the GGNS LRA (Enclosure 1). The NRC staff will follow established review procedures and the enclosed schedule to complete the reviews required by 10 CFR Parts 51 and 54. Milestones for hearing activities are not included in the enclosed schedule because these dates, if needed, would be established by the Commission or the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, should a hearing be requested and granted. We would like to emphasize that the staff's review of your LRA will be very detailed and thorough. The staff will make every effort to meet the scheduled milestones; thus, your responses to the staff's RAIs must be complete and provided in a timely manner. In addition, the staff noted that the LRA did not provide sufficient plant-specific information in the program descriptions for AMPs where you claim consistency with the GALL Report recommendations. Therefore, the staff will likely require additional resources during audits and in preparation of additional RAIs to verify AMP consistency. Similarly, the staff will have to verify any changes that would result from the outcome of your extended power uprate (EPU) amendment application. Processing of RAIs to verify AMP details and reviewing any LRA amendments from the EPU process may challenge the staff's review schedule. We request that

you inform the NRC staff as early as possible should potential delays arise in your support of the schedule.

Finally, we have also enclosed a copy of the notice related to your application that is being sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication (Enclosure 2). This notice announces the opportunity to request a hearing and to file a petition for leave to intervene.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Nathaniel Ferrer, Project Manager, for the review of the GGNS LRA, by telephone at 301-415-1045 or via e-mail at nathaniel.ferrer@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie A. Galloway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'G'.

Melanie A. Galloway, Acting Director
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-416

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/encls: Listserv

GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION
 LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
 REVIEW SCHEDULE

Milestone	Scheduled	Actual
Receive license renewal application (LRA)	11/1/2011	11/1/2011
Publish Federal Register Notice (FRN) – LRA availability	11/2011	11/17/2011
Publish FRN – acceptance/rejection and opportunity for hearing	12/2011	
Publish FRN – environmental scoping meeting	12/2011	
Audit – Scoping & Screening Methodology	1/9/2012	
Audit – Aging Management Programs	1/23/2012	
Public Meeting – License Renewal Overview and Environmental Scoping meeting	1/31/2012	
Deadline for filing hearing requests and petitions for intervention	2/2012	
Environmental scoping period ends	2/2012	
Audit – Environmental	3/26/2012	
Inspection – Regional	8/2012	
Issue safety evaluation report (SER) with open items	10/2012	
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee meeting	12/2012	
Issue draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS)	12/2012	
Publish FRN – draft SEIS available for comments	12/2012	
Public Meeting – draft SEIS meeting	2/2013	
End of draft SEIS comment period	3/2013	
Issue final SER	4/2013	
ACRS full committee meeting	6/2013	
Issue final SEIS	7/2013	
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency FRN Published – availability of final SEIS	7/2013	
Decision – Director, NRR (22 months if no hearing)	9/2013	
Commission decision (if hearing is granted)	TBD	

ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE FOR DOCKETING OF THE APPLICATION,
NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING,
REGARDING RENEWAL OF
FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-29
FOR AN ADDITIONAL 20-YEAR PERIOD
ENTERGY OPERATIONS, INC.
GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1
DOCKET NO. 50-416

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) is considering an application for the renewal of an operating license, which authorizes Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy), to operate the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (GGNS), at 3898 megawatts thermal. The renewed license would authorize the applicant to operate GGNS, for an additional 20 years beyond the period specified in the current license. GGNS is located in Claiborne County, Mississippi and its current operating license expires on November 1, 2024.

Entergy submitted the application dated October 28, 2011, pursuant to Title 10, Part 54, of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR Part 54), to renew operating license NPF-29. A notice of receipt and availability of the license renewal application (LRA) was published in the *Federal Register* on November 17, 2011 (76 FRN 71379).

The Commission's staff has determined that Entergy has submitted sufficient information in accordance with 10 CFR Sections 54.19, 54.21, 54.22, 54.23, and 51.53(c), to enable the staff to undertake a review of the application, and that the

application is therefore acceptable for docketing. The current Docket Number, 50-416, for operating license NPF-29 will be retained. The determination to accept the LRA for docketing does not constitute a determination that a renewed license should be issued, and does not preclude the NRC staff from requesting additional information as the review proceeds.

Before issuance of the requested renewed license, the NRC will have made the findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations. In accordance with 10 CFR 54.29, the NRC may issue a renewed license on the basis of its review if it finds that actions have been identified and have been or will be taken with respect to: (1) managing the effects of aging during the period of extended operation on the functionality of structures and components that have been identified as requiring aging management review, and (2) time-limited aging analyses that have been identified as requiring review, such that there is reasonable assurance that the activities authorized by the renewed license will continue to be conducted in accordance with the current licensing basis (CLB) and that any changes made to the plants CLB will comply with the Act and the Commission's regulations.

Additionally, in accordance with 10 CFR 51.95(c), the NRC will prepare an environmental impact statement that is a supplement to the Commission's NUREG-1437, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants," dated May 1996. In considering the LRA, the Commission must find that the applicable requirements of Subpart A of 10 CFR Part 51 have been satisfied, and that matters raised under 10 CFR 2.335 have been addressed. Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.26, and as part of the environmental scoping process, the staff intends to hold a public scoping meeting. Detailed information regarding the environmental scoping meeting will be the subject of a separate *Federal Register* notice.

Within 60 days after the date of publication of this *Federal Register* notice, any person whose interest may be affected by this proceeding and who wishes to participate as a party in the proceeding must file a written request for a hearing and a petition for leave to intervene with respect to the renewal of the license. Requests for a hearing or petitions for leave to intervene must be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and Issuance of Orders" in 10 CFR Part 2. Interested persons should consult a current copy of 10 CFR 2.309, which is available at the Commission's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, MD 20852 and is accessible from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Public Electronic Reading Room online in the NRC library at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Persons who do not have access to the Internet or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS should contact the NRC's PDR reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at PDR@nrc.gov. If a request for a hearing/petition for leave to intervene is filed within the 60-day period, the Commission or a presiding officer designated by the Commission or by the Chief Administrative Judge of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel will rule on the request and/or petition; and the Secretary or the Chief Administrative Judge of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel will issue a notice of a hearing or an appropriate order. In the event that no request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene is filed within the 60-day period, the NRC may, upon completion of its evaluations and upon making the findings required under 10 CFR Parts 51 and 54, renew the license without further notice.

As required by 10 CFR 2.309, a petition for leave to intervene shall set forth with particularity the interest of the petitioner in the proceeding, and how that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding, taking into consideration the limited scope of

matters that may be considered pursuant to 10 CFR Parts 51 and 54. The petition must specifically explain the reasons why intervention should be permitted with particular reference to the following factors: (1) the nature of the requestor's/petitioner's right under the Act to be made a party to the proceeding; (2) the nature and extent of the requestor's/petitioner's property, financial, or other interest in the proceeding; and (3) the possible effect of any decision or order which may be entered in the proceeding on the requestor's/petitioner's interest. The petition must also set forth the specific contentions which the petitioner/requestor seeks to have litigated at the proceeding.

Each contention must consist of a specific statement of the issue of law or fact to be raised or controverted. In addition, the requestor/petitioner shall provide a brief explanation of the basis for each contention and a concise statement of the alleged facts or the expert opinion that supports the contention on which the requestor/petitioner intends to rely in proving the contention at the hearing. The requestor/petitioner must also provide references to those specific sources and documents of which the requestor/petitioner is aware and on which the requestor/petitioner intends to rely to establish those facts or expert opinion. The requestor/petitioner must provide sufficient information to show that a genuine dispute exists with the applicant on a material issue of law or fact.¹ Contentions shall be limited to matters within the scope of the action under consideration. The contention must be one that, if proven, would entitle the requestor/petitioner to relief. A requestor/petitioner who fails to satisfy these requirements with respect to at least one contention will not be permitted to participate as a party.

The Commission requests that each contention be given a separate numeric or

¹To the extent that the application contains attachments and supporting documents that are not publicly available because they are asserted to contain safeguards or proprietary information, petitioners desiring access to this information should contact the applicant or applicant's counsel to discuss the need for a protective order.

alpha designation within one of the following groups: (1) technical (primarily related to safety concerns); (2) environmental; or (3) miscellaneous.

As specified in 10 CFR 2.309, if two or more requestors/petitioners seek to co-sponsor a contention or propose substantially the same contention, the requestors/petitioners will be required to jointly designate a representative who shall have the authority to act for the requestors/petitioners with respect to that contention.

All documents filed in NRC adjudicatory proceedings, including a request for hearing, a petition for leave to intervene, any motion or other document filed in the proceeding prior to the submission of a request for hearing or petition to intervene, and documents filed by interested governmental entities participating under 10 CFR 2.315(c), must be filed in accordance with the NRC E-Filing rule (72 FR 49139, August 28, 2007). The E-Filing process requires participants to submit and serve all adjudicatory documents over the internet, or in some cases to mail copies on electronic storage media. Participants may not submit paper copies of their filings unless they seek an exemption in accordance with the procedures described below.

To comply with the procedural requirements of E-Filing, at least ten (10) days prior to the filing deadline, the participant should contact the Office of the Secretary by e-mail at hearing.docket@nrc.gov, or by telephone at 301-415-1677, to request (1) a digital ID certificate, which allows the participant (or its counsel or representative) to digitally sign documents and access the E-Submittal server for any proceeding in which it is participating; and (2) advise the Secretary that the participant will be submitting a request or petition for hearing (even in instances in which the participant, or its counsel or representative, already holds an NRC-issued digital ID certificate). Based upon this information, the Secretary will establish an electronic docket for the hearing in this proceeding if the Secretary has not already established an electronic docket. Information about applying for a digital ID certificate is available on NRC's public

Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals/apply-certificates.html>. System requirements for accessing the E-Submittal server are detailed in NRC's "Guidance for Electronic Submission," which is available on the agency's public Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html>. Participants may attempt to use other software not listed on the Website, but should note that the NRC's E-Filing system does not support unlisted software, and the NRC Meta System Help Desk will not be able to offer assistance in using unlisted software.

If a participant is electronically submitting a document to the NRC in accordance with the E-Filing rule, the participant must file the document using the NRC's online, Web-based submission form. In order to serve documents through EIE, users will be required to install a Web browser plug-in from the NRC Website. Further information on the Web-based submission form, including the installation of the Web browser plug-in, is available on the NRC's public Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html>.

Once a participant has obtained a digital ID certificate and a docket has been created, the participant can then submit a request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene. Submissions should be in Portable Document Format (PDF) in accordance with NRC guidance available on the NRC public Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html>. A filing is considered complete at the time the documents are submitted through the NRC's E-Filing system. To be timely, an electronic filing must be submitted to the E-Filing system no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the due date. Upon receipt of a transmission, the E-Filing system time-stamps the document and sends the submitter an e-mail notice confirming receipt of the document. The E-Filing system also distributes an e-mail notice that provides access to the document to the NRC Office of the General Counsel and any others who have advised the Office of the Secretary that they wish to participate in the proceeding, so that the filer need not serve. Therefore, applicants and other participants (or their counsel or representative) must

apply for and receive a digital ID certificate before a hearing request/petition to intervene is filed so that they can obtain access to the document via the E-Filing system.

A person filing electronically using the agency's adjudicatory E-Filing system may seek assistance by contacting the NRC Meta System Help Desk through the "Contact Us" link located on the NRC Website at <http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html>, by e-mail at MSHD.Resource@nrc.gov, or by a toll-free call at (866) 672-7640. The NRC Meta System Help Desk is available between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, excluding government holidays.

Participants who believe that they have good cause for not submitting documents electronically must file an exemption request, in accordance with 10 CFR 2.302(g), with their initial paper filing requesting authorization to continue to submit documents in paper format. Such filings must be submitted by: (1) first class mail addressed to the Office of the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff; or (2) courier, express mail, or expedited delivery service to the Office of the Secretary, Sixteenth Floor, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff. Participants filing a document in this manner are responsible for serving the document on all other participants. Filing is considered complete by first-class mail as of the time of deposit in the mail, or by courier, express mail, or expedited delivery service upon depositing the document with the provider of the service. A presiding officer, having granted an exemption request from using E-Filing, may require a participant or party to use E-Filing if the presiding officer subsequently determines that the reason for granting the exemption from use of E-Filing no longer exists.

Documents submitted in adjudicatory proceedings will appear in NRC's electronic hearing docket which is available to the public at <http://ehd1.nrc.gov/EHD/>, unless excluded pursuant to an order of the Commission, or the presiding officer. Participants

are requested not to include personal privacy information, such as social security numbers, home addresses, or home phone numbers in their filings, unless an NRC regulation or other law requires submission of such information. With respect to copyrighted works, except for limited excerpts that serve the purpose of the adjudicatory filings and would constitute a Fair Use application, participants are requested not to include copyrighted materials in their submission.

Detailed information about the license renewal process can be found under the Nuclear Reactors icon at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal.html> on the NRC's website. Copies of the application to renew the operating license for GGNS are available for public inspection at the Commission's PDR, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville, MD 20852-2738, and at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications.html>, the NRC's website, while the application is under review. The application may be accessed in ADAMS through the NRC's Public Electronic Reading Room on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> under ADAMS Accession Number ML113080132. As stated above, persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS may contact the NRC's Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to PDR@nrc.gov.

The NRC staff has verified that a copy of the license renewal application is also available to local residents near GGNS, at the Harriette Person Memorial Library, 606 Main St., Port Gibson, MS 39150.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 16th day of December, 2011.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanie A. Galloway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "M".

Melanie A. Galloway, Acting Director
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Sincerely,

/RA/

Melanie A. Galloway, Acting Director
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-416

Enclosures:
As stated

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See next page

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Letter to M. Perito from M. Galloway dated December 16, 2011

SUBJECT: DETERMINATION OF ACCEPTABILITY AND SUFFICIENCY FOR DOCKETING, PROPOSED REVIEW SCHEDULE, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE APPLICATION FROM ENTERGY OPERATIONS, INC., FOR RENEWAL OF THE OPERATING GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1

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