

Mr. William A. Eaton
 Vice President, Operations GGNS
 Entergy Operations, Inc.
 P. O. Box 756
 Port Gibson, MS 39150

December 29, 1999

SUBJECT: GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1 - RELIEF FROM AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (ASME) BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL CODE, SECTION XI REPAIR REQUIREMENTS FOR ASME CLASS 3 PIPING (TAC NO. MA5869)

Dear Mr. Eaton:

By letter dated April 1, 1999, Entergy Operations, Inc. (EOI) requested relief from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code, Section XI requirements for repair of ASME Code Class 3 moderate energy piping in the Standby Service Water (SSW) system. The relief request was based upon the licensee's determination, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(5)(iii), that conformance with the ASME Code repair requirements was impractical due to the mode of plant operation in effect at the time when the need for a Code repair was discovered. Furthermore, because ASME Code compliance has since been restored by replacement of the degraded section of piping, relief from the impractical Code requirement was requested for the period of time that temporary non-Code repair was necessary in accordance with guidance provided in Generic Letter 90-05.

The staff's evaluation of the EOI relief request submitted in the letter dated April 1, 1999, is provided in the enclosed Safety Evaluation. Based on the staff's evaluation in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i), the relief request is granted for the specific period of time between discovery of the degraded condition in the SSW system piping, and subsequent replacement of the degraded piping section.

Sincerely,
 ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Robert A. Gramm, Chief, Section 1
 Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
 Division of Licensing Project Management
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-416

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Grand Gulf Nuclear Station

cc:

Executive Vice President
& Chief Operating Officer
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 31995
Jackson, MS 39286-1995

Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway
P. O. Box 651
Jackson, MS 39205

Winston & Strawn
1400 L Street, N.W. - 12th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Director
Division of Solid Waste Management
Mississippi Department of Natural
Resources
P. O. Box 10385
Jackson, MS 39209

President
Claiborne County Board of Supervisors
P. O. Box 339
Port Gibson, MS 39150

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, TX 76011

Senior Resident Inspector
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 399
Port Gibson, MS 39150

General Manager, GGNS
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 756
Port Gibson, MS 39150

Attorney General
Department of Justice
State of Louisiana
P. O. Box 94005
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9005

State Health Officer
State Board of Health
P. O. Box 1700
Jackson, MS 39205

Office of the Governor
State of Mississippi
Jackson, MS 39201

Attorney General
Asst. Attorney General
State of Mississippi
P. O. Box 22947
Jackson, MS 39225

Vice President, Operations Support
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 31995
Jackson, MS 39286-1995

Director, Nuclear Safety
and Regulatory Affairs
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 756
Port Gibson, MS 39150

May 1999