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Office of the Secretary
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

DOCKET NUMBER
PETITION RULE PRM 72-5
(65FR36647)

Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudication Staff

Subject: Comments on Petition for Rulemaking - 10 CFR Part 72
Docket No. PRM-72-5

Reference: *Federal Register* Vol. 65, No. 112, Pages 36647 – 36649, dated June 9, 2000

CNRO-2000-00025

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On June 9, 2000, the NRC published in the *Federal Register* a petition for rulemaking filed by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) pertaining to 10 CFR Part 72. Specifically, the petition requests the NRC regulations governing storage of spent nuclear fuel be amended to establish a more efficient process for issuing and amending certificate of compliance (CoC) for dry cask storage under a general license. In the *Federal Register* notice, the NRC requested public comment on the petition.

Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy) fully supports the NEI petition. Entergy agrees with NEI that:

- The current process for traditional notice and comment rulemaking for issuing and amending CoCs is much too cumbersome and inefficient. (Entergy has experienced schedule delays because of the inefficiency of the current regulatory process.)
- There is no benefit in using rulemaking for the ministerial act of maintaining a list of certified casks. The burden of maintaining this list outweighs any benefit and is not necessary.

In addition, Entergy believes the NEI petition brings the Part 72 process more in-line with the Part 50 licensing and amendment process, which nuclear facility personnel understand. Such a change will drastically reduce the burden characteristic of the current Part 72 process.

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Entergy strongly encourages the NRC to adopt the process for issuing and amending CoCs as proposed by NEI in its petition.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments.

Sincerely,



MAK/GHD:ghd

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