

February 6, 2001

Mr. Charles M. Dugger
Vice President Operations
Entergy Operations, Inc.
17265 River Road
Killona, LA 70066-0751

SUBJECT: WATERFORD STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 3 RE: COMPLETION OF LICENSING ACTION FOR GENERIC LETTER 98-02, "LOSS OF REACTOR COOLANT INVENTORY AND ASSOCIATED POTENTIAL FOR LOSS OF EMERGENCY MITIGATION FUNCTION WHILE IN A SHUTDOWN CONDITION" (TAC NO. MA4771)

Dear Mr. Dugger:

On May 28, 1998, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 98-02 to all holders of operating licenses for Pressurized Water Reactors (PWR), except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel. The NRC issued GL 98-02 to request that PWR licensees evaluate a September 17, 1994, event which occurred at Wolf Creek, which had the potential to draindown the reactor coolant system (RCS) to the refueling water storage tank (RWST) and, at the same time, render the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) and residual heat removal (RHR) system inoperable by introducing a steam/water mixture to the suction side of the ECCS and RHR pumps. Addressees of GL 98-02 were requested to provide the following information within 180 days: (1) an assessment of whether the addressee's facility is vulnerable to the September 17, 1994, Wolf Creek event, and (2) if the facility is found to be vulnerable, an assessment of the plant-specific 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, quality assurance program attributes which will prevent the subject event. If the addressee's facility was determined to be vulnerable, a response to information item (1) was to be provided pursuant to 10 CFR 50.54(f) and 10 CFR 50.4, and the responses to information items (1) and (2) were to be kept in a licensee's retrievable system for use by the NRC staff on an as-needed basis.

In response to GL 98-02, your staff provided a verbal statement to your project manager that indicated Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3 (Waterford 3) was not vulnerable to the type of incident which occurred at Wolf Creek and that the plant evaluation concerning the subject vulnerability (information item (2) of GL 98-02) was being kept in a retrievable licensee system that the NRC can verify on an as-needed or sample basis, in accordance with GL 98-02.

By letter dated January 10, 2000, the Region IV NRC staff issued NRC Inspection Report No. 50-382/99-24. The subject inspection report contained details of the NRC staff's on-site verification of activities which you undertook in response to GL 98-02 for Waterford 3. Specifically, the inspector verified that an assessment of the inadvertent draindown event described in the generic letter had been made, the assessment was on file, and the determination of the assessment was that Waterford 3 was not susceptible to a draindown

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such as had occurred at Wolf Creek Nuclear Station. The assessment was also found by the inspector to be reasonable.

The NRC staff has reviewed your response to GL 98-02 and has concluded that (1) all the information requested by GL 98-02 has been provided, and (2) that your on-site activities adequately addressed the concerns of GL 98-02 for Waterford 3. Therefore, we consider GL 98-02 to be closed for Waterford 3.

Sincerely,

/RA/

N. Kalyanam, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning, Section 1
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-382

cc: See next page

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