

May 15, 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR: File

FROM: S. Patrick Sekerak, Project Manager, Section 1 /RA/  
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR)

SUBJECT: GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1 (GGNS) -  
ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF GGNS REQUEST FOR USE  
OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS  
(ASME) CODE CASE N-516-1 (TAC NO. MB1919)

REFERENCE: 1. Letter (CNRO-2001/00026) from Entergy Operations, Inc.  
(EOI), to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, "Request for  
Use of ASME Code Case N-561-1," dated May 11, 2001.

The attached letter (Reference 1) was electronically transmitted by EOI to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff on May 11, 2001 to facilitate a teleconference on the same date among personnel from EOI, GGNS, and the NRC staff. The purpose of the teleconference was the discussion of the GGNS request for use of ASME Code Case N-561-1 for temporary non-Code repair welding of a four inch diameter elbow in the Residual Heat Removal (RHR) system which had developed a pin-hole leak.

EOI/GGNS requested verbal authorization to proceed with the repair, based on information provided in Reference 1, prior to the staff issuance of a formal safety evaluation addressing the use of Code Case N-561-1 in this application. The reason for the GGNS request for expedited review of this issue was the necessity to terminate a seven day shutdown Action Statement required by Technical Specifications, which did not allow sufficient time for a normal review process.

The discussion during the May 11, 2001 teleconference resulted in staff comments on Reference 1 which EOI and GGNS agreed to incorporate in a corrected version of the Reference 1 cover letter, and in a supplemental submittal of Attachment 1 to Reference 1. This technical discussion and agreement by EOI to revise the request based on the staff's comments provided the basis for the staff to grant GGNS verbal approval to proceed with the repair welding of the RHR piping elbow in parallel with the staff's preparation of a written safety evaluation.

Docket No. 50-416

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