

November 19, 2001

Mr. Randall K. Edington
Vice President - Operations
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
P. O. Box 220
St. Francisville, LA 70775

SUBJECT: RIVER BEND STATION (RBS), UNIT 1 - ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT
RE: REVISION OF THE RBS TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION (TS) LIMIT FOR
SPENT FUEL STORAGE (TAC NO. MB1846)

Dear Mr. Edington:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 123 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-47 for RBS, Unit 1. The amendment consists of changes to the TSs in response to your application dated April 19, 2001.

The amendment changes the RBS TSs to allow an increase in the number of spent fuel assemblies (SFAs) to be stored in the spent fuel pool from the current TS limit of 2680 SFAs to 3104 SFAs.

A copy of our related Safety Evaluation is also enclosed. The Notice of Issuance will be included in the Commission's next biweekly *Federal Register* notice.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Robert E. Moody, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-458

Enclosures: 1. Amendment No. 123 to NPF-47
2. Safety Evaluation

cc w/encls: See next page

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DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC	RidsNrrDripRtsb (WBeckner)
PDIV-1 Reading	RidsNrrDlpmPdiv (SRichards)
RidsOgcRp	RidsAcrcAcnwMailCenter
G. Hill (2)	RidsNrrDlpmPdivLpdiv1 (RGramm)
RidsNrrPMRMoody	RidsNrrLADJohnson
D. Shum	RidsRgn4MailCenter (KBrockman)
L.Hurley, RIV	D. Bujol, RIV

**See previous concurrence

Accession No.: ML013060618

* No significant changes from initial SE input

OFFICE	PDIV-1/PM	PDIV-1/LA	SPLB/SC	OGC	PDIV-1/SC
NAME	RMoody**	MMcAllister for DJohnson**	BThomas*	AHodgdon**	RGramm
DATE	11/7/01	11/6/01		11/09/01	11/19/01

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

ENERGY GULF STATES, INC. **

AND

ENERGY OPERATIONS, INC.

DOCKET NO. 50-458

RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

Amendment No. 123
License No. NPF-47

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by Entergy Gulf States, Inc.* (the licensee) dated April 19, 2001, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, as amended, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this license amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and

* Entergy Operations, Inc. is authorized to act as agent for Entergy Gulf States, Inc., and has exclusive responsibility and control over the physical construction, operation and maintenance of the facility.

**Entergy Gulf States, Inc., has merged with a wholly owned subsidiary of Entergy Corporation. Entergy Gulf States, Inc., was the surviving company in the merger.

- E. The issuance of this amendment is in accordance with 10 CFR Part 51 of the Commission's regulations and all applicable requirements have been satisfied.
2. Accordingly, the license is amended by changes to the Technical Specifications as indicated in the attachment to this license amendment, and Paragraph 2.C.(2) of Facility Operating License No. NPF-47 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- (2) Technical Specifications and Environmental Protection Plan
- The Technical Specifications contained in Appendix A, as revised through Amendment No. 123 and the Environmental Protection Plan contained in Appendix B, are hereby incorporated in the license. Entergy Operations, Inc. shall operate the facility in accordance with the Technical Specifications and the Environmental Protection Plan.
3. The license amendment is effective as of its date of issuance and shall be implemented within 30 days from the date of issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

/RA/

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

Attachment: Changes to the Technical
Specifications

Date of Issuance: November 19, 2001

ATTACHMENT TO LICENSE AMENDMENT NO. 123

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-47

DOCKET NO. 50-458

Replace the following page of the Appendix A Technical Specifications with the attached revised page. The revised page is identified by amendment number and contains a marginal line indicating the area of change.

Remove

4.0 - 2

Insert

4.0 - 2

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
RELATED TO AMENDMENT NO. 123 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. NPF-47

ENTERGY OPERATIONS, INC.

RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1

DOCKET NO. 50-458

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By application dated April 19, 2001, Entergy Operations, Inc. (the licensee) requested changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) (Appendix A to Facility Operating License No. NPF-47) for the River Bend Station (RSB), Unit 1. The proposed change would revise the RBS TSs to allow an increase in the number of spent fuel assemblies (SFAs) to be stored in the spent fuel pool (SFP) from the current TS limit of 2680 SFAs to 3104 SFAs.

2.0 BACKGROUND

RBS has two fuel pools, one in the containment and one in the fuel building. The containment fuel pool has a storage capacity for 200 fuel assemblies. The fuel building SFP has a storage capacity for 3172 SFAs and 9 defective fuel assemblies with their storage canisters, and is licensed to store no more than 2680 SFAs. Thus, with a full core¹ offload capacity (424 SFA storage spaces in the SFP and 200 SFA storage spaces in the containment fuel pool) reserved during plant operation, the SFA storage spaces in the fuel building SFP would be limited to only 2156 (2680 less 424) SFAs during plant operations. This limit causes RBS to lose full core offload capability following the refueling outage RF-11.

3.0 EVALUATION

Current TS 4.3.3.1 states:

“The spent fuel storage pool is designed and shall be maintained with a storage capacity limited to no more than 2680 fuel assemblies.”

The licensee proposed to revise the above requirement as:

“The spent fuel storage pool is designed and shall be maintained with a storage capacity limited to no more than 3104 fuel assemblies.”

¹ RBS reactor core has 624 fuel assemblies.

The licensee stated that the RBS licensing restriction established in the current TS was originally intended to allow storage of 2680 SFAs in the fuel building SFP with an additional 424 SFA storage capacity allowed for an emergency (unplanned) full core offload. Licensing basis thermal hydraulic analyses were performed to support 3104 SFAs to be stored in the SFP during an emergency² full core offload event with 2680 SFAs being the limit for normal storage conditions. The thermal hydraulic analyses demonstrate that: under normal (planned) refueling conditions, assuming a single active failure of the SFP cooling system, the calculated peak SFP water temperature is 139.8°F (the SFP is maintained at or below 140°F); and during an emergency (unplanned) full core offload, the SFP water temperature is 155.6°F (the SFP is maintained at or below 156°F).

The licensee stated the proposed TS change does not change the design and operational aspects of the plant or the SFP storage and cooling, and will have no impact on the calculated peak SFP water temperatures during a normal refueling outage and an emergency full core offload event. By limiting the total storage capacity to 3104 SFAs, the proposed change would, in effect, continue to impose a storage limit of 2680 SFAs that ensures the pool temperature does not exceed 140°F as currently required, because 424 SFA spaces in the SFP would be reserved during reactor operation to accommodate an emergency full core offload.

Based on our review of the licensee's rationale, the Commission concludes that the licensee's proposed TS change to allow up to 3104 SFAs to be stored in the SFP is acceptable.

4.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Louisiana State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding (66 FR 52948, October 18, 2001). Accordingly, the amendment meets the eligibility criteria for categorical exclusion set forth in 10 CFR 51.22(c)(9). Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.22(b), no environmental impact statement or environmental assessment need be prepared in connection with the issuance of the amendment.

² During the course of RBS power uprate application request, in the response (dated April 3, 2000) to the NRC staff's Request for Additional Information, the licensee stated that a full core off-load is not a normal practice at the RBS during refueling outages.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The Commission has concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that (1) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, (2) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and (3) the issuance of the amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Principal Contributor: D. Shum

Date: November 19, 2001

River Bend Station

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