

January 29, 2002

Mr. John R. Hamilton
Manager, Engineering Programs
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 31995
Jackson, MS 39286-1995

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR WITHHOLDING FROM PUBLIC DISCLOSURE - ARKANSAS
NUCLEAR ONE, UNITS 1 AND 2, AND WATERFORD STEAM ELECTRIC
STATION, UNIT 3 - COMPARISON OF MECHANICAL NOZZLE SEAL
ASSEMBLIES (MNSA) WITH THE SECOND GENERATION MNSA DESIGN
(MNSA-2) (TAC NO. MB3834)

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

By your application and affidavit dated January 17, 2002, you submitted "Comparison of Mechanical Nozzle Seal Assemblies (MNSA) with the Second Generation MNSA Design (MNSA-2)" and requested it be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790. A nonproprietary copy of this document was submitted for placement in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Public Document Room and added to the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System's Public Electronic Reading Room.

The affidavit stated that the submitted information should be considered exempt from mandatory public disclosure for the following reasons:

- 1.ii. This information is of a type that is held in confidence by Entergy [Operations, Inc.], and there is a rational basis for doing so because the information contains commercially viable technical information developed and funded by Entergy.
- 1.v. Public disclosure of this information would create substantial harm to the competitive position of Entergy by disclosing commercially viable technical information.

We have reviewed your affidavit and the material in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.790 and, on the basis of your statements, have determined that the submitted information sought to be withheld contains proprietary commercial information and should be withheld from public disclosure.

Therefore, the version of the submitted information marked as proprietary will be withheld from public disclosure pursuant to 10 CFR 2.790(b)(5) and Section 103(b) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

Withholding from public inspection shall not affect the right, if any, of persons properly and directly concerned to inspect the documents. If the need arises, we may send copies of this information to our consultants working in this area. We will, of course, ensure that the consultants have signed the appropriate agreements for handling proprietary information.

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If the basis for withholding this information from public inspection should change in the future such that the information could then be made available for public inspection, you should promptly notify the NRC. You also should understand that the NRC may have cause to review this determination in the future, for example, if the scope of a Freedom of Information Act request includes your information. In all review situations, if the NRC makes a determination adverse to the above, you will be notified in advance of any public disclosure.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, I may be reached at 301-415-1480.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket Nos. 50-382, 50-313, and 50-368

cc: See next page

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N. Kalyanam, Project Manager, Section 1
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March 2001