

March 1, 1989

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Docket No. 50-416

Mr. W. T. Cottle
Vice President, Nuclear Operations
System Energy Resources, Inc.
Post Office Box 23054
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Mr. Cottle:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF REQUEST RELATED TO SURVEILLANCE OF
SNUBBERS FOR GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1 (TAC NO. 68980)

Enclosed is a copy of a "Notice of Environmental Assessment and Finding
of No Significant Impact" for your information. This notice is related
to your request dated July 25, 1988.

The request is for an amendment to change the Technical Specifications by
changing the sampling plans for surveillance tests of snubbers.

This notice has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for
publication.

Sincerely,

LSI

Lester L. Kintner, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Environmental Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

[GGNS AMEND 68980]

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Mr. W. T. Cottle
System Energy Resources, Inc.

Grand Gulf Nuclear Station (GGNS)

cc:
Mr. T. H. Cloninger
Vice President, Nuclear Engineering
and Support
System Energy Resources, Inc.
P. O. Box 23054
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Mr. C. R. Hutchinson
GGNS General Manager
System Energy Resources, Inc.
Post Office Box 756
Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150

Robert B. McGehee, Esquire
Wise, Carter, Child, Steen and
Caraway
P. O. Box 651
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

The Honorable William J. Guste, Jr.
Attorney General
Department of Justice
State of Louisiana
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Nicholas S. Reynolds, Esquire
Bishop, Liberman, Cook, Purcell
and Reynolds
1400 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3502

Office of the Governor
State of Mississippi
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Mr. Ralph T. Lally
Manager of Quality Assurance
Middle South Utilities System
Services, Inc.
639 Loyola Avenue, 3rd Floor
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

Attorney General
Gartin Building
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Mr. John G. Cesare
Director, Nuclear Licensing
System Energy Resources, Inc.
P. O. Box 23054
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Mr. Jack McMillan, Director
Division of Solid Waste Management
Mississippi Department of Natural
Resources
Post Office Box 10385
Jackson, Mississippi 39209

Mr. C. B. Hogg, Project Manager
Bechtel Power Corporation
P. O. Box 2166
Houston, Texas 77252-2166

Alton B. Cobb, M.D.
State Health Officer
State Board of Health
P.O. Box 1700
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Mr. H. O. Christensen
Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Route 2, Box 399
Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150

President
Claiborne County Board of Supervisors
Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150

Regional Administrator, Region II
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street
Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONSYSTEM ENERGY RESOURCES, INC., et al.DOCKET NO. 50-416GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-29, issued to Systems Energy Resources, Inc., et. al. (the licensee), for operation of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit 1, located in Claiborne County, Mississippi.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The Technical Specifications (TS) Section 4.7.4 concerning surveillance requirements for snubbers contain three alternative sampling plans, one of which must be selected prior to surveillance testing of snubbers. Plan No. 1 requires at least 10% of the total number of each type of snubber to be functionally tested. If acceptance criteria are not met, an additional 5% are required to be tested until no failures are found or until all snubbers are tested. Plan No. 2 requires an initial sample of at least 37 snubbers to be tested. The plan contains criteria for acceptance of the remainder of the untested population, criteria for continued testing, and rejection criteria. Rejection criteria require that if the number of failures exceeds a specified small percentage of snubbers tested (7.5% to 10%), then all the remainder of the snubbers must be tested. Plan No. 3 requires an initial sample of at least 55 snubbers to be tested. For each snubber which fails to meet acceptance criteria another sample of at least $\frac{1}{2}$ the size of the initial sample is required

to be tested until the total number tested equals the initial sample size times the factor $(1 + C/2)$ where C is the number of failed snubbers. Testing continues until acceptance criteria are met or until all snubbers are tested.

The proposed amendment would revise the provisions in the Technical Specifications (TS) relating to Section 4.7.4 concerning surveillance requirements for snubbers by: (1) changing sampling plan No. 2 to eliminate the requirement to test all snubbers if the number of test failures exceeds a specified number, and (2) deleting sampling plan No. 3. In addition, the Bases for TS 3/4.7.4 would be changed to reflect the TS changes.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated July 25, 1989.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed change to snubber sampling plan No. 2 is needed to reduce radiation exposure to testing personnel by eliminating unnecessary surveillance testing of 100% of the snubbers. The surveillance testing verifies that the snubbers are capable of maintaining the structural integrity of safety related systems during an earthquake or other events resulting in dynamic loads. Sampling plan No. 2 would still require an initial sample of 37 snubbers and continued testing until either the acceptance criteria are met or all the snubbers are tested. The proposed change does not change the acceptance criteria for continued snubber testing. The proposed change would eliminate the rejection criteria, which require testing of 100% of the snubbers if a small number of the sample tested do not meet the acceptance criteria. The elimination of the rejection criteria without changing acceptance criteria will

result in an insignificant increase in the probability of accepting snubbers that do not meet acceptance criteria. The radiation exposure accumulated during the first refueling outage for snubber inspections using sampling plan No. 2 was 3.2 man-rem and during the second refueling outage the radiation exposure for snubber inspection was 29 man-rem. The projected potential exposure for the third refueling outage, without the proposed change is 60.2 man-rem. The proposed change to sampling plan No. 2 will reduce radiation exposure by eliminating unnecessary surveillance testing of snubbers.

The proposed elimination of sampling plan No. 3 is requested to simplify the TS. This plan has not been used and there is no need for it in future testing.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed revision to the TS and concludes that the proposed TS would provide a small increase in the probability of operating with snubbers that do not pass functional tests, but the increase is not significant. Therefore, the proposed amendment does not significantly increase the probability or consequences of any accident. The Commission also concludes 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 should be no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure because the proposed change would reduce radiation exposure of testing personnel. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that this proposed action would result in no significant radiological environmental impact.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed change to the TS involves requirements with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission concluded that there are no significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce environmental impacts of plant operation and would result in increased radiation exposure of snubber testing personnel.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the "Final Environmental Statement related to the operation of Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2," dated September 1981.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

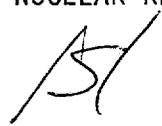
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed license amendment.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated July 25, 1988, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and at the Hinds Junior College, McLendon Library, Raymond, Mississippi 39154.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 1st day of March 198 .
FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Edward A. Reeves, Acting Director
Project Directorate II-1
Division of Reactor Projects I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

[GGNS AMEND 68980]

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NAME	:PAnderson <i>PA</i> :LKitchner:jfw: <i>MB</i> <i>Bordenick</i>	:ERees <i>ER</i>	:	:	:
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