

December 21, 2004

Mr. F. G. Burford
Acting Director
Nuclear Safety & Licensing
Entergy Operations, Inc.
1340 Echelon Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213-8298

SUBJECT: ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNITS 1 AND 2; GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION; RIVER BEND STATION; WATERFORD STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 3 - USE OF SUBSEQUENT AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL CODE EDITION AND ADDENDA FOR VISUAL CONTAINMENT EXAMINATIONS (TAC NOS. MC5025, MC5026, MC5027, MC5028, MC5029)

Dear Mr. Burford:

By letter dated October 27, 2004, as supplemented by letter dated December 7, 2004, you requested approval, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) 50.55a(g)(4)(iv), to use portions of the 1998 Edition with 1999 and 2000 Addenda of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (Code), Section XI, for the conduct of visual containment examinations. The request was based on guidance in Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Regulatory Issue Summary 2004-12.

The NRC staff has reviewed the subject request and concludes that you have adequately addressed all of the regulatory requirements set forth in 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv). Therefore, the staff approves your proposed alternative to use portions of the 1998 Edition with 1999 and 2000 Addenda of the ASME Code for the conduct of visual containment examinations during the current inservice inspection interval for the subject plants. The NRC staff's related Safety Evaluation is enclosed.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael K. Webb, Acting Chief, Section 1
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-313, 50-368, 50-416, 50-458, 50-382

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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Division of Licensing Project Management
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*Safety Evaluation input date

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SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
REQUEST NO. CEP-IWE/IWL-001 TO USE SUBSEQUENT EDITIONS AND ADDENDA OF
THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL CODE
FOR VISUAL CONTAINMENT EXAMINATIONS
ENTERGY OPERATIONS, INC.
ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNITS 1 AND 2
GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION
RIVER BEND STATION
WATERFORD STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 3
DOCKET NOS. 50-313, 50-368, 50-416, 50-458, 50-382

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated October 27, 2004 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML043080325), as supplemented by letter dated December 7, 2004 (ADAMS Accession Number ML043500438), Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy or the licensee) requested NRC approval to use portions of the 1998 Edition with 1999 and 2000 Addenda of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (Code), Section XI, for the conduct of visual containment examinations. Request No. CEP-IWE/IWL-001 applies to Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2; Grand Gulf Nuclear Station; River Bend Station; and Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv).

2.0 REGULATORY EVALUATION

In the *Federal Register* (61 FR 41303) dated August 8, 1996, the Commission amended Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 50.55a, to incorporate by reference the 1992 Edition through the 1992 Addenda of the ASME Code, Section XI, Subsections IWE and IWL. Subsection IWE provides the requirements for inservice inspection (ISI) of Class MC (metal containment) components and the metallic liner of Class CC (concrete containment) components. Subsection IWL provides the requirements for ISI of Class CC components. In the *Federal Register* (67 FR 60520) dated September 26, 2002, the Commission amended the rule incorporating the 1998 Edition with 1999 and 2000 Addenda of the ASME Code, Section XI. The Code of record for Entergy's plants is the 1992 Edition with the 1992 Addenda.

3.0 TECHNICAL EVALUATION

By letter dated October 27, 2004, Entergy requested NRC approval to use portions of the 1998 Edition with 1999 and 2000 Addenda of the ASME Code, Section XI, for the conduct of visual containment examinations during the current ISI interval. The licensee used Regulatory Issue Summary 2004-12, "Clarification on Use of Later Editions and Addenda to the ASME Code and Section XI," as guidance for submitting the request. The licensee stated that this request will continue to be valid until the next 10-year update of the containment ISI program at each site. Specifically, Entergy requested approval for using the 1998 Edition through 2000 Addenda for the Class MC components, Liners of Class CC containments, and Class CC components examined in the ASME examination categories: E-A, E-C, L-A, L-B and items: E1.11, E1.12, E4.11, E4.12, L1.11, L1.12, L2.30. The licensee listed the primary paragraphs and all related requirements necessary to implement the primary paragraphs that will be adopted when using the 1998 Edition.

As stated in 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv), inservice examination of components and system pressure tests may meet the requirements set forth in subsequent editions and addenda that are incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a(b), subject to the limitations and modifications listed therein, and subject to NRC staff approval. Furthermore, 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv) states that portions of editions or addenda may be used provided that all related requirements of the respective editions and addenda are met. Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(2)(viii), licensees applying the 1998 Edition through the 2000 Addenda shall apply paragraphs (b)(2)(viii)(E) and (b)(2)(viii)(F) of this section. As stated in 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(2)(ix), licensees applying the 1998 Edition through the latest edition and Addenda incorporated by reference in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, shall satisfy the requirements of paragraphs (b)(2)(ix)(A), (b)(2)(ix)(B), and (b)(2)(ix)(F) through (b)(2)(ix)(I) of this section.

In the listing provided by the licensee, it was not clear to the staff how the items are consistent with 10 CFR 50.55a. In its supplemental letter dated December 7, 2004, Entergy stated that implementation of the requested paragraphs will be done in compliance with applicable modifications and limitations required by 10 CFR 50.55a. The licensee also stated that existing requests for relief or alternatives applicable to the Containment ISI Programs are limited to the 1992 Edition with 1992 Addenda of the ASME Code and will not be used for the portions of the later edition and addenda of the ASME Code requested in the submittal. In the event requests for relief or alternatives are required for the later edition of the Code, Entergy will submit these requests separately. The staff reviewed the list provided by the licensee in its application, as supplemented, which contained the primary paragraphs and all related requirements necessary to implement the primary paragraphs that will be adopted when using the 1998 Edition with the 1999 and 2000 Addenda, and finds the regulatory requirements to be adequately addressed. Therefore, the staff finds the licensee's request consistent with 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(iv) and, therefore, acceptable.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Consistent with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv), the staff has reviewed the licensee's request, as supplemented, and determined that the pertinent regulatory provisions were adequately addressed. Therefore, the staff finds the licensee's request acceptable and approves the proposed alternative to use portions of the 1998 Edition with 1999

and 2000 Addenda of the ASME Code for the conduct of visual containment examinations at Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2; Grand Gulf Nuclear Station; River Bend Station; and Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3, for the current ISI interval.

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Date: December 21, 2004

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