

October 21, 2005

Mr. William A. Eaton, Vice President
System Energy Resources, Inc.
Entergy Nuclear, M-ECH-38
1340 Echelon Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213

SUBJECT: FINAL SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT FOR THE GRAND GULF EARLY SITE
PERMIT APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Eaton:

By letter dated October 16, 2003, System Energy Resources, Inc. (SERI), tendered its application for an early site permit (ESP) for the Grand Gulf site, in accordance with Subpart A of Part 52, "Early Site Permits; Standard Design Certifications; and Combined Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants," of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR Part 52). SERI revised and supplemented its application on July 4, 2005, and October 3, 2005. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) formally accepted it as a docketed application for an ESP on November 21, 2003. The NRC staff reviewed the ESP application and has developed the enclosed final safety evaluation report (SER).

NRC is issuing this SER in accordance with the review schedule identified in the enclosure to the staff's letter to SERI dated November 21, 2003. It provides information to stakeholders regarding the state of completion of the staff's review of the safety aspects of SERI's ESP application.

Issuance of this SER is an important milestone in the staff's review to determine whether the SERI application meets the Commission's regulations. The Commission is expected to reach a final decision on the ESP application after reviewing the staff's final SER and environmental impact statement, along with a report from the NRC's independent Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards and the findings of the NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board in a hearing on the application.

By letter dated August 16, 2004, you requested, on behalf of Enercon Services, Inc., that the quality assurance program (in its entirety) be exempt from mandatory public disclosure, in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.390, "Public Inspections, Exemptions, Requests for Withholding." The staff concludes that the enclosed SER does not contain any information for which exemption has been sought or approved. However, the NRC will withhold the enclosed SER from public disclosure for 14 calendar days from the date of this letter to allow SERI the opportunity to verify the staff's conclusions. If, after that time, you do not request that all or portions of the SER be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with 10 CFR 2.390, the enclosure will be made available for public inspection through the NRC's Public Document Room and the publicly available records component of the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the Public Electronic Reading Room section of the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

W. A. Eaton

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Please contact Mr. Raj K. Anand, NRC project manager for the review of the SERI Grand Gulf ESP application, at (301) 415-1146 or RKA@nrc.gov if you have any questions or comments concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Beckner, Program Director
New, Research and Test Reactors Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 52-009

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/o encl: See next page

Please contact Mr. Raj K. Anand, NRC project manager for the review of the SERI Grand Gulf ESP application, at (301) 415-1146 or RKA@nrc.gov if you have any questions or comments concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Beckner, Program Director
New, Research and Test Reactors Program
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 52-009

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/o encl: See next page

Copy w/encl:

BSosa	MMayfield	SKlementowicz
RNRP R/F	BBoger	JLyons
WBeckner	LDudes	DMatthews
PPrescott	CMunson	RHarvey
GBagchi	YLi	JWilson
KCampe	JLee	JAnderson
DBarss	ATardiff	RWeisman
MWoods		

Hard Copy w/o encl:

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Email

JDyer	RAnand	RDennig
MRubin	EWeiss	ELeeds
KManoly	GImbro	DThatcher
NMamish	JShea	MTschiltz
AKugler	FGillespie	KWinsberg
PMadden	RBorchardt	JSegala
CAraguas	MEI-Zeftawy (ACRS)	NPatel

ADAMS ACCESSION NO: ML052860041—Package

OFFICE	PM:RNRP	LA:RNRP	SC:RNRP	PD:RNRP	OGC	D:DRIP
NAME	RAnand	PMagnanelli	LDudes	WBeckner	MWoods	DMatthews
DATE	10/13/05	10/13/05	10/17/05	10/17/05	10/18/05	10/18/05

GRAND GULF EARLY SITE PERMIT
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