

January 5, 2006

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

SUBJECT: ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNITS 1 AND 2, GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1, RIVER BEND STATION, AND WATERFORD STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 3 - REQUEST NO. IST-2005-2, TO USE SUBSEQUENT EDITIONS AND ADDENDA OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS CODE FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS (ASME OM CODE) FOR EXERCISING MANUAL VALVES (TAC NOS. MC9166, MC9167, MC9168, MC9169, AND MC9170)

Dear Mr. Burford:

By letter dated December 6, 2005, Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy) requested Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval to use portions of a more recent edition and addenda of the ASME OM Code for the Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2 (ANO-1 and ANO-2), Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (GGNS), River Bend Station (RBS), and Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3 (Waterford 3) facilities, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv). Specifically, Entergy requested approval to apply the requirements of Subsubarticle ISTC-3540 of the 2001 Edition with 2003 Addenda of ASME OM Code for exercising all manual valves at ANO-1, ANO-2, GGNS, RBS, and Waterford 3 within the Inservice Testing (IST) program, until the beginning of the next 120-month interval for each facility, namely, December 2009 for ANO-2, and December 2007 for ANO-1, GGNS, RBS, and Waterford 3.

The applicable Code of record for all above mentioned facilities is the ASME/American National Standards Institute (ANSI) OMa, Part 10, 1988 Addenda. The regulations in 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv) state that IST of pumps and valves 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 in Paragraph (b) of 10 CFR 50.55a, and subject to NRC approval. Portions of editions or addenda may be used, provided that all related requirements of the respective editions or addenda are met.

The 2001 Edition up to and including the 2003 Addenda of the ASME OM Code were incorporated by reference into 10 CFR 50.55a on October 1, 2004 (69 FR 58804), and the final rule became effective on November 1, 2004. This final rule did not change the limitation on Subsubarticle ISTC-3540, found in 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(3)(vi) (imposed by 67 FR 60520, dated September 26, 2002, with the effective date of October 28, 2002), that requires an exercise interval of 2 years for manual valves within the scope of the ASME OM Code, rather than the 5-year interval specified in the 2001 Edition up to and including the 2003 Addenda, provided that adverse conditions (as defined in subsection ISTC) do not require more frequent testing.

The licensee is requesting approval to exercise manual valves in accordance with Subsubarticle ISTC-3540 of the 2001 Edition up to and including the 2003 Addenda of the ASME OM Code. The licensee further acknowledges the requirement to test the manual valves, consistent with the limitation imposed by 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(3)(vi), on a 2-year interval instead of the 5-year interval, provided that adverse conditions (as defined in subsection ISTC) do not require more frequent testing. Further, the NRC staff has identified no related requirements in the specified ASME Code edition and addenda that would also need to be met to implement the requested Subsubarticle ISTC-3540.

Consistent with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv), the NRC staff has reviewed Entergy's request and has determined that all regulatory provisions were adequately addressed for ANO-1, ANO-2, GGNS, RBS, and Waterford 3. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv), the NRC staff approves the use of Subsubarticle ISTC-3540 of the 2001 Edition up to and including the 2003 Addenda of the ASME OM Code for exercising manual valves at ANO-1, ANO-2, GGNS, RBS, and Waterford 3, subject to the limitation in 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(3)(vi), until the beginning of the next 120-month interval for each facility, as stated above.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David Terao, Chief
Plant Licensing Branch IV
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

cc: See next page

The licensee is requesting approval to exercise manual valves in accordance with Subsubarticle ISTC-3540 of the 2001 Edition up to and including the 2003 Addenda of the ASME OM Code. The licensee further acknowledges the requirement to test the manual valves, consistent with the limitation imposed by 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(3)(vi), on a 2-year interval instead of the 5-year interval, provided that adverse conditions (as defined in subsection ISTC) do not require more frequent testing. Further, the NRC staff has identified no related requirements in the specified ASME Code edition and addenda that would also need to be met to implement the requested Subsubarticle ISTC-3540.

Consistent with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv), the NRC staff has reviewed Entergy's request and has determined that all regulatory provisions were adequately addressed for ANO-1, ANO-2, GGNS, RBS, and Waterford 3. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(f)(4)(iv), the NRC staff approves the use of Subsubarticle ISTC-3540 of the 2001 Edition up to and including the 2003 Addenda of the ASME OM Code for exercising manual valves at ANO-1, ANO-2, GGNS, RBS, and Waterford 3, subject to the limitation in 10 CFR 50.55a(b)(3)(vi), until the beginning of the next 120-month interval for each facility, as stated above.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David Terao, Chief
 Plant Licensing Branch IV
 Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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

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