

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 - RE: USE OF LATER EDITIONS AND ADDENDA OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL CODE (ASME CODE), SECTION XI FOR ULTRASONIC EXAMINATIONS (TAC NOS. MC8045, MC8046, MC8047, MC8048, AND MC8049)

Dear Mr. Burford:

By letter dated August 3, 2005, Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy) requested Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval to use later editions and addenda of the ASME Code Section XI for performing ultrasonic examinations (UT), 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(g)(4)(iv). Specifically, for the affected components listed in Tables 1 through 5 of Entergy's submittal for each facility, Entergy requested approval to apply the requirements of Paragraph IWA-2232 of the 1995 Edition, with 1996 addenda of the ASME Code Section XI for performing UT at ANO-1, ANO-2, GGNS, RBS, and Waterford-3, until the beginning of the next 120 month interval for each facility, namely, June 1, 2007, for ANO 1; March 26, 2010, for ANO-2; June 2, 2007, for GGNS; December 1, 2007, for RBS; and July 1, 2007, for Waterford-3.

The applicable Code of record for performing non-Appendix VIII UT, for each facility, is listed below:

- ANO-1 - ASME Code Section XI, 1980 Edition with 1981 Winter Addenda
- ANO-2 - ASME Code Section XI, 1986 Edition
- GGNS - ASME Code Section XI, 1977 Edition with 1979 Summer Addenda
- RBS - ASME Code Section XI, 1980 Edition with 1981 Winter Addenda
- Waterford 3 - ASME Code Section XI, 1980 Edition with 1981 Winter Addenda

Additionally, for selecting and scheduling the locations for performing UT, and evaluating associated UT results, the applicable Codes are the 1992 Edition with portions of 1993 Addenda, as identified in each facility's inservice inspection (ISI) program. Entergy followed NRC Regulatory Issue Summary (RIS) 2004-16, "Use of Later Editions and Addenda to ASME Code Section XI for Repair/Replacement Activities," as the basis for the request.

The regulations in 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv) state that inservice examination of components may meet 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. The regulations further state that portions of editions and addenda may be used provided that all related requirements of the respective editions or addenda are met. The 1995 Edition with the 1996 Addenda of the ASME Code, Section XI were incorporated by reference into 10 CFR 50.55a on September 22, 1999 (64 FR 51370) and the final rule became effective on November 22, 1999. No modifications or limitations were imposed on the use of Paragraph IWA-2232 in the final rule.

The NRC staff has reviewed Entergy's request and notes that RIS-2004-12, "Clarification on Use of Later Editions and Addenda to the ASME OM [Operations & Maintenance] Code and Section XI," states in part that if portions of a later Code edition and addenda are used, licensees must assure that all related requirements of the respective edition and addenda are met. Entergy stated that "...all related requirements for performing UT [examinations] are also adopted including the qualification and certification of personnel to the 1995 Edition, 1996 Addenda." This is consistent with the guidance under RIS 2004-12, which discusses the related requirements and states, in part, that the request must be submitted prior to its use. Finally, the use of IWA-2232 of the 1995 Edition with 1996 Addenda of Section XI for all non-Appendix VIII UT examinations is acceptable, noting that the use of IWA-2232 for Appendix VIII examinations has already been addressed and implemented through regulation under 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(ii)(C)(2).

Consistent with the requirements set forth in 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv), the guidance provided under RIS 2004-12, and the above discussion, the NRC staff 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(g)(4)(iv), the NRC staff approves the use of IWA-2232 and all related requirements in the 1995 Edition up to and including the 1996 Addenda of the ASME Code, Section XI for UT for ANO-1, ANO-2, GGNS, RBS, and Waterford-3, until the beginning of the next 120 month interval for each facility, as stated above. This approval is effective immediately upon receipt.

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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