

February 7, 2006

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

SUBJECT: REVISION TO THE GRAND GULF FINAL SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT

Dear Mr. Eaton:

On October 21, 2005, the staff issued its final safety evaluation report (FSER) for the Grand Gulf early site permit (ESP) application, and on December 8, 2005, the staff met with the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) to discuss the staff's FSER. By letter dated December 23, 2005, the ACRS recommended that the staff provide clarification in the FSER regarding the conclusions on potential hazards posed to the proposed site by explosions in transportation accidents along the Mississippi River. After further review, the staff agrees with the ACRS and has determined that more information is necessary to fully characterize the potential hazards at the site.

In its original application, SERI proposed to follow Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.91, "Evaluations of Explosions Postulated To Occur on Transportation Routes near Nuclear Power Plants," in analyzing the hazards identified above. In light of the issue identified by the ACRS, on January 13, 2006, the staff held a conference call (ADAMS Accession Number: ML060240253) with System Energy Resources Inc. (SERI) and requested that SERI provide additional information to demonstrate how RG 1.91 is being met. SERI committed to submit a supplement to the ESP application by February 15, 2006. As a result, the staff could not finalize the NUREG for the FSER for the ESP at the Grand Gulf site per the published date of January 28, 2006.

Please note that failure to provide an adequate response on the above agreed-upon date may result in a delay of completion of the staff's evaluation of this issue. If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, you may contact me at (301) 415-3637 or cja2@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Christian Araguas, Project Manager
New Reactor Licensing Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 52-009

cc: See next page

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/RA/

Christian Araguas, Project Manager
New Reactor Licensing Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Distribution: See next page

ADAMS ACCESSION NO. ML060320005

OFFICE	PM:NRBA	BC:NRBA
NAME	CAraguas	LDudes
DATE	2/6/06	2/2/06

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NRBA R/F

WBeckner

LDudes

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CAraguas

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TQuay

JLyons

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KCampe

RAnand

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CAraguas

JSegala

LMrowca

LDudes

RWeisman

RDennig

MTschiltz

WBlumberg

GRAND GULF EARLY SITE PERMIT
SERVICE LIST

Grand Gulf

Mr. George A. Zinke
Manager, Project Management
Nuclear Business Development
Entergy Nuclear, M-ECH-683
1340 Echelon Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213

Mr. Michael A. Krupa
Acting Director, Nuclear Safety Assurance
Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
Bald Hill Road – Waterloo Road
Port Gibson, MS 39150

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

Ms. Patricia L. Campbell
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Mr. Michael D. Bourgeois
Manager, Project Management
Nuclear Business Development
Entergy Nuclear, M-ECH-683
1340 Echelon Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213

Mr. Francis G. Burford
Acting Director, Nuclear Safety Assurance
Entergy Nuclear South, M-ECH-521
1340 Echelon Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213

Mr. William K. Hughey
Sr. Manager, Business Development
Entergy Nuclear, M-ECH-683
1340 Echelon Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213

Mr. Bob Evans
Enercon Services Inc.
12850 Middlebrook Road, Suite 108
Germantown, MD 20874

Mr. George A. Williams
Site Vice President
Grand Gulf Nuclear Station
Bald Hill Road - Waterloo Road
Port Gibson, MS 39150
Federal, State and local

Attorney General
Department of Justice
State of Louisiana
P. O. Box 94005
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9005

Attorney General
Asst. Attorney General
State of Mississippi
P. O. Box 220
Jackson, MS 39205-0220

Mr. Robert W. Goff, Program Director
Division of Radiological Health
Mississippi State Dept. of Health
P.O. Box 1700
Jackson, MS 39215-1700

Mr. Phil Bass, Director
Office of Pollution Control
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 10385
Jackson, MS 39289

Mr. Jerry Cain, Chief
Environmental Permits Division
Department of Environmental Quality
P. O. Box 10385
Jackson, MS 39289

Ms. Kathleen B. Blanco
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 94004, State of Louisiana
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Governor Haley Barbour
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 139, State of Mississippi
Jackson, MS 39205

GRAND GULF EARLY SITE PERMIT
SERVICE LIST

-2-

Mr. Rick Foster, Director
Emergency Management for Tensas
Parish
P.O. Box 768
St. Joseph, LA 71366

Military Department
Louisiana Dept. of Homeland
Security/Emergency Preparedness
Col. Mike Brown, Asst. Director
7667 Independence Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Mr. Robert R. Latham, Jr., Director
Mississippi Emergency Management
Agency
P.O. Box 4501, Fondren Station
Jackson, Mississippi 39296-4501

Ms. Bobbie Young, Director
Claiborne County Emergency Management
Agency
P. O. Box 558
Port Gibson, MS 39150

Mr. Lawrence A. Robertson
RAC Chair
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

Ms. Prosanta Chowdhury, Project Leader
Louisiana Department of Environmental
Quality
Office of Environmental Compliance
Nuclear Power Plant Emergency
Preparedness
P. O. Box 4312
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4312

Ms. Lisa Hammond
Chief, Technological Services Branch
FEMA Region VI
800 N. Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209-3606

Ms. Vanessa E. Quinn, Chief
Radiological Emergency Preparedness
Section
Department of Homeland Security
1800 S. Bell Street, Room 837
Crystal City-Arlington, VA 22202-3546

Mr. Gary Wright, Manager
Division of Nuclear Safety
Illinois Emergency Management Agency
1035 Outer Park Drive
Springfield, IL 62704

Ms. Nancy Butler, Director
Harriette Person Memorial Library
606 Main St.
Port Gibson, MS 39150

Mr. David Lochbaum
Union of Concerned Scientists
1707 H Street, NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006-3919

Mr. Paul Gunter
Director of the Reactor Watchdog Project
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
1424 16th Street, NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. James Riccio
Greenpeace
702 H Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20001

Mr. Brendan Hoffman
Research Associate on Nuclear Energy
Public Citizens Critical Mass Energy
and Environmental Program
215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Mr. Marvin Fertel
Senior Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 400
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Adrian Heymer
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 400
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

GRAND GULF EARLY SITE PERMIT
SERVICE LIST

-3-

Mr. Russell Bell
Nuclear Energy Institute
Suite 400
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Ernie H. Kennedy
Vice President New Plants
Nuclear Plant Projects
Westinghouse Electric Company
2000 Day Hill Road
Windsor, CT 06095-0500

Dr. Regis A. Matzie
Senior Vice President and
Chief Technology Officer
Westinghouse Electric Company
2000 Day Hill Road
Windsor, CT 06095-0500

Mr. Glenn H. Archinoff
AECL Technologies
481 North Frederick Avenue
Suite 405
Gaithersburg, MD. 20877

Mr. Ed Wallace, General Manager
Projects
PBMR Pty LTD
PO Box 9396
Centurion 0046
Republic of South Africa

Mr. Tom Clements
6703 Guide Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Mr. Paul Leventhal
Nuclear Control Institute
1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 410
Washington, DC 20036

Dr. Jack W. Roe
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Charles Brinkman
Westinghouse Electric Co.
Washington Operations
12300 Twinbrook Pkwy., Suite 330
Rockville, MD 20852

Dr. Glenn R. George
Co-Head, Energy Capital Markets
Nomura Securities International, Inc.
2 World Financial Center, Bldg. B, 21st Floor
New York, NY 10281-1198

Mr. Joseph D. Hegner
Lead Engineer - Licensing
Dominion Generation
Early Site Permitting Project
5000 Dominion Boulevard
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Mr. Thomas Mundy
Director, Project Development
Exelon Generation
200 Exelon Way, KSA3-N
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Mr. Jerald S. Holm
Framatome ANP, Inc.
3315 Old Forest Road
P.O. Box 10935
Lynchburg, VA 24506-0935

Ms. Kathryn Sutton, Esq.
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Mr. Robert E. Sweeney
IBEX ESI
4641 Montgomery Avenue
Suite 350
Bethesda, MD 20814

Internal e-mail:

SCollins
MDapas
RBlough
MGamberoni
BHollan
WTravers
LPlisco
VMcCree
CCasto
JCaldwell
GGrant
CPederson
MSatorius
BMAlet
TGwynn
DChamberlain

GRAND GULF EARLY SITE PERMIT
SERVICE LIST

AHowell

External Email

tom.miller@hq.doe.gov or
tom.miller@ nuclear.energy.gov
jerald.holm@framatome-anp.com
gzinke@entergy.com
eddie.grant@exeloncorp.com
gcesare@enercon.com
mwetterhahn@winston.com
louis.quintana@ge.com
whorin@winston.com
steven.hucik@ge.com
james1beard@ge.com
david.hinds@ge.com
chris.maslak@ge.com