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F. G. Burford  
Acting Director  
Nuclear Safety & Licensing

CNRO-2007-00006

February 21, 2007

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn.: Document Control Desk  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: General Electric (GE) Licensing Topical Report, NEDE-33284P, Revision 0,  
"Marathon-5S Control Rod Assembly," September 2006

Reference: Letter from Mr. R. E. Brown (GE) to Document Control Desk (USNRC),  
Subject: GE Licensing Topical Report, NEDE-33284P, Revision 0, "Marathon-  
5S Control Rod Assembly," dated, September 27, 2006 (ADAMS Accession  
No. ML062760212).

Dear Sir or Madam:

On September 27, 2006, GE submitted the subject Licensing Topical Report (LTR) for the Marathon-5S Control Rod Assembly, which incorporates certain incremental changes relative to the approved Marathon design. The letter requested that NRC issue a safety evaluation (SE) by the end of March 2007.

In December, the NRC proposed an extended review schedule for the subject LTR that does not support the installation of the Marathon-5S control rod assemblies at River Bend Station (RBS) during the fall 2007 outage.

Entergy is planning to install a limited number of Marathon-5S control rod assemblies at RBS in the fall 2007 outage, which begins in October, 2007. A License Amendment is not needed to support the use of the new control rod assemblies; the assemblies can be installed under CFR 50.59 with NRC approval of the LTR. While Entergy has some options for acquiring other control rods to support the October 2007 outage, the preferred option is to install the Marathon-5S control rod assemblies. Entergy requests NRC consideration of a review schedule that would target approval of the LTR by September 1, 2007.

GE is ready to support an expedited NRC review schedule that would allow the installation of the Marathon-5S control rod assemblies at RBS during the fall 2007 outage.

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If you have any questions, please contact Tony Huiatt at 225-381-4229 or myself at 601-368-5755.

Sincerely,



FGB/RWB/rwb

cc: Mr. W. R. Campbell (ECH)  
Mr. J. E. Venable (RBS)

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