

April 2, 2007

Mr. Michael Kansler  
President  
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.  
440 Hamilton Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10601

SUBJECT: PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION - RELIEF REQUEST NO. PRR-15  
REV. 01, APPROVAL TO INCLUDE REMAINING REACTOR PRESSURE  
VESSEL (RPV) SAFE-END WELDS IN CONTINGENCY REPAIR PLAN FOR  
FULL STRUCTURAL WELD OVERLAYS (TAC NO. MD2663)

Dear Mr. Kansler:

By letter dated June 29, 2005 (Agencywide Documents and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML051920157), as supplemented by letter dated July 14, 2006 (ML062010210), Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (the licensee) submitted Relief Request PRR-15, Rev. 01, which added RPV safe-end welds under Table 1, to the welds subject to the contingency repair plan under Relief Request PRR-39, Rev. 02 (PRR-39), for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (Pilgrim).

In its safety evaluation dated April 12, 2005 (ML050880137), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff approved the contingency repair plan for specific welds in PRR-39, for the remaining service life of Pilgrim, 8 years from 2005 to 2012. By letter dated July 14, 2006, the licensee submitted its response to the staff's request for additional information dated May 11, 2006 (ML06120140). In letter dated July 14, 2006, the licensee stated that it had evaluated the changes in the code cases in Tables 1 and 2 of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.147, Rev. 13 and 14, and confirmed that the code cases approved under PRR-39 did not change the design, fabrication, and testing of the overlay repair plan under PRR-39.

RG 1.147, Rev. 14 states that if a code case is implemented by a licensee and a later version of the code case is approved by the NRC staff and listed in Tables 1 and 2 during the licensee's present 120-month inservice inspection (ISI) program interval, that licensee may use either the later version or the previous version. In addition to the above, the licensee is committing to using a repair plan approved by the staff under PRR-39 pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) for the additional RPV safe-end welds listed under PRR-15, Rev. 01 (see attached Background information).

Based on the information provided by the licensee, the NRC staff approves Relief Request PRR-15, Rev. 01, for the remainder of the fourth ISI interval, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i).

M. Kansler

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If you have any questions regarding this approval, please contact the Pilgrim Project Manager, James Kim, at 301-415-4125.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

John P. Boska, Chief (Acting)  
Plant Licensing Branch I-1  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-293

cc: See next page

## BACKGROUND

The NRC approved PRR-39, Rev. 2 (hereafter PRR-39) Contingency Repair Plan for use in the Third 10-Ten Year inservice inspection (ISI) interval, for use during succeeding 120 months from April 12, 2005 until the expiration of Pilgrim Operating License in 2012. The welds included in PRR-39 are identified in the table below and were selected for examination during Refueling Outage (RFO) 15, which was the last refueling outage in the Third 10-year interval. RFO-15 took place in April and May of 2005.

### Welds included in PRR-39, Rev. 2 Contingency Repair Plan

WELD IDENTIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	SYSTEM
14-A-1	Safe-End to Nozzle	Core Spray
14-B-1	Safe-End to Nozzle	Core Spray
2R-N1B-1	Safe-End to Nozzle	Recirculation
2R-N2D-1	Safe-End to Nozzle	Recirculation
2R-N2E-1	Safe-End to Nozzle	Recirculation
2R-N2F-1	Safe-End to Nozzle	Recirculation
2R-N2G-1	Safe-End to Nozzle	Recirculation
2R-N2J-1	Safe-End to Nozzle	Recirculation
14-A-3	Pipe to Reducer	Core Spray
14-B-3	Pipe to Reducer	Core Spray
14-A-10A	Valve to Pipe	Core Spray
14-B-10A	Valve to Pipe	Core Spray

The above PRR-39 welds included only those welds which were scheduled for inspection during RFO-15, but excluded all other reactor pressure vessel (RPV) safe-end to nozzle welds, because these RPV welds had already been inspected during the previous refueling outages within the Third 10-year ISI interval. The Contingency Repair Plan was to preclude exigent reviews if a weld flaw was identified. Pilgrim opted for NRC approval of a Contingency Repair Plan before the start of the RFO-15 for the PRR-39 welds that were scheduled for inspection during that outage.

By the relief request (PRR-15, Rev.01) dated June 29, 2005, the licensee requested NRC to include the remaining RPV safe-end welds identified in the table below in the Contingency Repair Plan for use within the 120-month duration that was approved by NRC on April 12, 2005. These RPV safe-end welds fall within the material conditions, repair plan, and examination techniques already reviewed and approved by the NRC for PRR-39 with no material changes.

RPV Safe-End to Nozzle Welds Included in PRR-15, Rev.01

WELD IDENTIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	SYSTEM
2R-N2A-1	Safe-End to Nozzle	Reactor Pressure Vessel
2R-N2B-1	Safe-End to Nozzle	Reactor Pressure Vessel
2R-N2C-1	Safe-End to Nozzle	Reactor Pressure Vessel
2R-N2D-1	Safe-End to Nozzle	Reactor Pressure Vessel
2R-N2H-1	Safe-End to Nozzle	Reactor Pressure Vessel
2R-N2K-1	Safe-End to Nozzle	Reactor Pressure Vessel
RPV-N9B-1	Safe-End to Nozzle	Reactor Pressure Vessel

As stated in the NRC safety evaluation (SE), dated April 12, 2005, NRC approved the Contingency Repair Plan for the remaining service life of Pilgrim, 8 years from 2005 to 2012, since the current Operating License would expire on June 8, 2012, and the cumulative duration for the Contingency Repair Plan would remain in effect for less than 120 months. The licensee plans to inspect all of the welds contained in PRR-39 and PRR-15 within this 120-month period. If flaws are identified, they will be corrected in accordance with the approved alternative Contingency Repair Plan.

NRC has approved up to 120 months for the applicability of approved 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(i) relief request PRR-39 in transition from the Third to the Fourth ISI interval, limited by the expiration of Pilgrim's current Operating License in 2012. NRC's SE on PRR-39 dated April 12, 2005, is applicable in its entirety to PRR-15, Rev. 01, because the licensee will be using all the Code Cases previously approved by the NRC in the PRR-39 SE.

Therefore, inclusion of PRR-15, Rev 01. welds in the previously approved Contingency Repair Plan is acceptable because the Contingency Repair Plan remains valid and in effect.

M. Kansler

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If you have any questions regarding this approval, please contact the Pilgrim Project Manager, James Kim, at 301-415-4125.

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

John P. Boska, Chief (Acting)  
Plant Licensing Branch I-1  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-293

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