April 30, 2008

Vice President, Operations
Entergy Operations, Inc.
Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3
17265 River Road
Killona, LA 70057-3093

SUBJECT: WATERFORD STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNIT 3 - ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT RE: USE OF OPTIMIZED ZIRLO™ FUEL ROD CLADDING - CORRECTION (TAC NO. MD5370)

Dear Sir or Madam:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued the Amendment No. 215 to Facility Operating License No. NPF-38 for the Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3. This amendment consists of changes to the Technical Specifications (TSs) in response to your application dated April 24, 2007, as supplemented by electronic mail dated February 12, 2008. The amendment changes TS 5.3.1, "Fuel Assemblies," to add Optimized ZIRLO™ as an acceptable fuel rod cladding material.

The NRC staff has determined that the TSs sections for the Core Operating Limits Report mentioned in Page 4 of the Safety Evaluation are incorrect. The corrected page 4 of the SE, with the changes denoted by the vertical bar on the right, is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1480.

Sincerely,

/RA/

N. Kalyanam, Project Manager
Plant Licensing Branch IV
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-382

cc: See next page

Enclosure: Page 4 of the SE

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Enclosure: Page 4 of the SE

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DATE	4/29/08	4/29/08	4/30/08

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performance to the NRC prior to subsequent cycles. The licensee has proposed to add WCAP-12610-P-A and CENPD-404-P-A, Addendum 1-A, "Optimized ZIRLO™," July 2006, which contain SE conditions #6 and #7 to TS 6.9.1.11.1, Core Operating Limits Report (COLR)." The addition of the WCAP to TS 6.9.1.11.1 will require that the SE conditions will be met by the licensee for subsequent refueling cycles.

Based upon the NRC staff's prior approval of Optimized ZIRLO™ and the licensee's current and future compliance with the SE conditions and limitations, the NRC staff finds the proposed change to TS 5.3.1 acceptable along with the future use of Optimized ZIRLO™ fuel cladding material at Waterford 3.

The NRC staff recognizes that implementing a new cladding material (and/or assembly design) along with its supporting analytical methods may impact calculated results for many design-basis accidents. Based on the NRC staff's prior review and approval (Reference 2), the licensee will continue to comply with regulatory criteria.

4.0 REGULATORY COMMITMENTS

1. The reload process for Waterford 3 will ensure the conditions and limitations of the NRC SER for Optimized ZIRLO™ as addressed in Attachment 1 of Reference 1 are met when a batch of Optimized ZIRLO™ is implemented.

2. Entergy will confirm that Westinghouse will provide additional confirmatory data associated with LTA programs at other facilities prior to subsequent cycles of operation with Optimized ZIRLO™ fuel rod cladding. Confirmation will continue until average burnup for the LTA programs at the other facilities reach the licensed average fuel rod burnup for Waterford 3 (60 gigawatt days per metric ton).

The NRC staff finds that reasonable controls for the implementation and for subsequent evaluation of proposed changes pertaining to the regulatory commitments are best provided by the licensee's administrative processes, including its commitment management program. The regulatory commitments do not warrant the creation of regulatory requirements (items requiring prior NRC approval of subsequent changes).

5.0 STATE CONSULTATION

In accordance with the Commission's regulations, the Louisiana State official was notified of the proposed issuance of the amendment. The State official had no comments.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

The amendment changes a requirement with respect to installation or use of a facility component located within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. The NRC staff has determined that the amendment involves no significant increase in the amounts, and no significant change in the types, of any effluents that may be released offsite, and that there is no significant increase in individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. The Commission has previously issued a proposed finding that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration, and there has been no public comment on such finding

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