



Entergy Operations, Inc.
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G3NO-2009-00002
R3NO-2009-00001

January 9, 2009

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

DOCKETS: Nos. 52-024 and 52-036

SUBJECT: Grand Gulf Unit 3 and River Bend Station Unit 3 COLA Reviews

- REFERENCES:
1. NRC Letter to Entergy Nuclear, *Acceptance for Docketing of the Entergy Application for a Combined License for Grand Gulf Unit 3*, dated April 17, 2008 (ADAMS Accession No. ML081050460).
 2. NRC Letter to Entergy Nuclear, *Acceptance for Docketing of the Entergy Operations, Inc. Application for a Combined License for River Bend Station Unit 3*, dated December 4, 2008 (ADAMS Accession No. ML083370275).

Dear Sir or Madam:

In the referenced letters, the NRC accepted for docketing the Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy) applications for a combined license (COLA) for Grand Gulf Unit 3 and River Bend Station Unit 3, respectively. Both of these applications are based on the General Electric-Hitachi Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) technology. Based on recent information and lack of adequate progress with commercial discussions, Entergy finds it prudent to reconsider the technology decision for both applications. Entergy requests the NRC suspend its review efforts of these applications until further notice pending our re-evaluation of the alternative technologies.

Entergy anticipates the technology decision could be made by the end of 2009. We understand that this request and the possible introduction of an alternate technology may involve a revision to each COLA and will impact the schedule for the review of the applications and the issuance of the licenses for these units. Entergy will provide an update of the progress in the technology selection process by July 31, 2009. Additionally, Entergy will declare in writing its expected COL application revision dates no later than 90 days ahead of their arrival.

For both COLAs, Entergy would propose to work closely with the staff in assessing each of the remaining open items such that suspending the COLA reviews is accomplished in a timely and orderly manner that preserves the work accomplished to date to the greatest extent practical. For example, if there are any site-specific or technology-neutral topics that the NRC

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MRO

may be able to bring to an efficient close, it may be beneficial to do so. Entergy will work closely with the staff to arrive at an appropriate disposition.

Specific aspects of this request related to each application and its upcoming milestones and activities are discussed below.

Grand Gulf:

Entergy had planned to submit Revision 1 of the Grand Gulf Subsequent COLA by February 16, 2009. With its decision to re-evaluate alternative technologies, Entergy plans to defer this submittal pending confirmation of the appropriate technology for the project.

In accordance with 10 CFR 52.3 and 10 CFR 50.71(e), regarding compliance with the annual FSAR update requirement, Entergy hereby certifies that there have been no changes to the Grand Gulf Unit 3 FSAR since the original submittal, which was docketed April 17, 2008. FSAR changes committed to in RAI responses will be incorporated as appropriate following the technology decision.

River Bend Station:

Entergy had agreed to provide the supplemental information identified in Reference 2 by February 5, 2009. This information would be considered by the NRC as the project review schedule was established. And, similar to the Grand Gulf application, Entergy had planned to submit Revision 1 of the River Bend Station Subsequent COLA by February 26, 2009. In addition, we had discussions with the NRC regarding tentative dates for two local meetings associated with the NRC environmental review effort – one was for the alternative site evaluation in late January, and the other for the Environmental Audit during the week of February 16. As with the Grand Gulf application described above, Entergy plans to defer the Entergy submittals and requests the two NRC meetings be canceled pending the technology confirmation. Additionally, Entergy requests that the NRC not issue the notice of hearing for the River Bend COLA until the COLA is revised.

This letter contains two commitments as identified in Attachment 1.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or one of the Entergy Project Managers, Mr. Tom Williamson or Mr. Jerry Burford. Mr. Williamson may be reached at (601) 368-5786 and Mr. Burford at (601) 368-5755.

With respect to the 10 CFR 50.71(e) certification for the Grand Gulf Unit 3 FSAR, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on January 9, 2008.

Sincerely,



WKH/ghd

cc (via e-mail unless otherwise specified):

NRC

NRC Project Manager – Grand Gulf Unit 3 COLA
NRC Project Manager – North Anna Unit 3 COLA
NRC Project Manager – River Bend Station Unit 3 COLA
NRC Director – Division of Construction Projects (Region II)
NRC Director - Division of New Reactor Licensing
NRC Regional Administrator - Region IV
NRC Resident Inspectors' Office – GGNS
NRC Resident Inspectors' Office - RBS

Ms. T. Dozier
Mr. A. Kugler

Entergy

Mr. M. A. Bowling (ECH)
Mr. C. E. Brooks (ECH)
Mr. T. A. Burke (ECH)
Mr. F. G. Burford (ECH)
Mr. G. H. Davant (ECH)
Mr. W. H. Hammett (M-ELEC)
Mr. P. D. Hinnenkamp (ECH)
Ms. D. Jacobs (ECH)
Ms. K. J. Lichtenberg (L-ENT)
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Ms. L. A. Patterson (ECH)
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Mr. M. D. Withrow (ECH)
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Mr. D. Harwood (DTE)
Mr. B. R. Johnson (GE-Hitachi)
Mr. P. Smith (DTE)

ATTACHMENT 1

**G3NO-2009-00002
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REGULATORY COMMITMENTS

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The following table identifies those actions committed to by Entergy in this document. Any other statements in this submittal are provided for information purposes and are not considered to be regulatory commitments.

| COMMITMENT | TYPE (Check one) | | SCHEDULED COMPLETION DATE (If Required) |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|--|
| | ONE-TIME ACTION | CONTINUING COMPLIANCE | |
| Entergy will provide an update on the technology selection process by July 31, 2009. | ✓ | | 7/31/2009 |
| Entergy will declare in writing its expected COL application revision dates no later than 90 days ahead of their arrival. | ✓ | | 90 days prior to COLA submittal |