



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 23, 2010

Vice President, Operations  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
Grand Gulf Nuclear Station  
P.O. Box 756  
Port Gibson, MS 39150

SUBJECT: GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1 – EXEMPTION FROM THE  
REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR PART 73, SECTION 73.55 (TAC NO. ME3081)

Dear Sir or Madam:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved the enclosed exemption from specific requirements of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Part 73, Section 73.55, for the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit 1. This action is in response to your application dated January 14, 2010, as supplemented by letters dated January 18 and February 4, 2010, in which you requested an exemption to extend the implementation date from the current March 31, 2010, deadline to July 30, 2010, for one requirement and to March 31, 2011, for a second requirement. The January 14 and February 4, 2010, letters contain security-related information and, accordingly, are being withheld from public disclosure. The January 18, 2010, letter is available to the public in the Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML100470705.

A copy of the exemption is enclosed. The exemption has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl F. Lyon", is positioned above the typed name.

Carl F. Lyon, Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch IV  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-416

Enclosure:  
Exemption

cc w/encl: Distribution via Listserv

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ENTERGY OPERATIONS, INC.  
GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1  
DOCKET NO. 50-416  
EXEMPTION

1.0 BACKGROUND

Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy or the licensee), is the holder of Facility Operating License No. NPF-29 which authorizes operation of the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (GGNS). The license provides, among other things, that the facility is subject to the rules, regulations, and orders of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC, the Commission) now or hereafter in effect.

The facility consists of a boiling-water reactor located in Claiborne County, Mississippi.

2.0 REQUEST/ACTION

Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Part 73, "Physical protection of plants and materials," Section 73.55, "Requirements for physical protection of licensed activities in nuclear power reactors against radiological sabotage," published in the *Federal Register* on March 27, 2009, effective May 26, 2009, with a full implementation date of March 31, 2010, requires licensees to protect, with high assurance, against radiological sabotage by designing and implementing comprehensive site security programs. The amendments to 10 CFR 73.55 published on March 27, 2009 (74 FR 13926), establish and update generically applicable security requirements similar to those previously imposed by Commission orders issued after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and implemented by licensees. In addition, the amendments to 10 CFR 73.55 include additional requirements to further enhance site security based upon insights gained from implementation of the post-September 11, 2001,

security orders. It is from two of these additional requirements that Entergy now seeks an exemption from the March 31, 2010, implementation date. All other physical security requirements established by this recent rulemaking have already been or will be implemented by the licensee by March 31, 2010.

By application dated January 14, 2010, as supplemented by letters dated January 18 and February 4, 2010, the licensee requested an exemption in accordance with 10 CFR 73.5, "Specific exemptions." The licensee's letters dated January 14 and February 4, 2010, contain security-related information and, accordingly, are being withheld from public disclosure. The licensee's letter dated January 18, 2010, is publicly available in Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML100190852. The licensee has requested an exemption from the March 31, 2010, implementation date, stating that it must complete a number of modifications to the current site security configuration before all requirements can be met. Specifically, the request is to extend the implementation date from the current March 31, 2010, deadline to July 30, 2010, for one requirement and to March 31, 2011, for a second requirement. Granting this exemption for the two requirements would allow the licensee to complete the modifications designed to provide significant upgrades to meet the noted regulatory requirements.

3.0 DISCUSSION OF PART 73 SCHEDULE EXEMPTIONS FROM THE MARCH 31, 2010, FULL IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Pursuant to 10 CFR 73.55(a)(1), "By March 31, 2010, each nuclear power reactor licensee, licensed under 10 CFR Part 50, shall implement the requirements of this section through its Commission-approved Physical Security Plan, Training and Qualification Plan, Safeguards Contingency Plan, and Cyber Security Plan referred to collectively hereafter as 'security plans.'" Pursuant to 10 CFR 73.5, the Commission may, upon application by any

interested person or upon its own initiative, grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 73 when the exemptions are authorized by law, and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and are otherwise in the public interest.

NRC approval of this exemption, as noted above, would allow an extension from March 31, 2010, to July 30, 2010, for the implementation date of one specific requirement and to March 31, 2011, for the implementation date of another specific requirement of the new rule. As stated above, 10 CFR 73.5 allows the NRC to grant exemptions from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 73. The NRC staff has determined that granting of the licensee's proposed exemption would not result in a violation of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, or the Commission's regulations. Therefore, NRC approval of the licensee's exemption request is authorized by law.

In the draft final rule provided to the Commission, the NRC staff proposed that the requirements of the new regulation be met within 180 days. The Commission directed a change from 180 days to approximately 1 year for licensees to fully implement the new requirements. This change was incorporated into the final rule. From this, it is clear that the Commission wanted to provide a reasonable timeframe for licensees to achieve full compliance.

As noted in the final rule, the Commission also anticipated that licensees would have to conduct site-specific analyses to determine what changes were necessary to implement the rule's requirements, and that any such changes could be accomplished through a variety of licensing mechanisms, including exemptions. Since issuance of the final rule, the Commission has rejected a generic industry request to extend the rule's compliance date for all operating nuclear power plants, but noted that the Commission's regulations provide mechanisms for individual licensees, with good cause, to apply for relief from the compliance date, as documented in the letter from R. W. Borchardt (NRC) to M. S. Fertel (Nuclear Energy Institute)

dated June 4, 2009. The licensee's request for an exemption is therefore consistent with the approach set forth by the Commission and discussed in the June 4, 2009, letter.

#### GGNS Schedule Exemption Request

The licensee provided detailed information in the Attachments to its letters dated January 14 and February 4, 2010, requesting an exemption. The licensee is requesting additional time to implement certain new requirements due to the long equipment lead time from the vendor, the time required for installation and testing of the new security equipment, and the impact to available resources from a scheduled spring 2010 refueling outage. The licensee describes a comprehensive plan to expand the protected area with upgrades to the security capabilities of its GGNS site and provides a timeline for achieving full compliance with the new regulation. The Attachments to the licensee's letters contain security-related information regarding the site security plan, details of the specific requirements of the regulation for which the site cannot be in compliance by the March 31, 2010, deadline, justification for the exemption request, a description of the required changes to the site's security configuration, and a timeline with "critical path" activities that would enable the licensee to achieve full compliance by March 31, 2011. The timeline provides dates indicating when (1) construction will begin on various phases of the project (e.g., new buildings and fences), and (2) critical equipment will be ordered, installed, tested and become operational. A redacted version of the licensee's exemption request, including attachment, is publicly available at Agencywide Documents Management and Access System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML100190852.

Notwithstanding the schedule exemptions for these limited requirements, the licensee indicated that it will continue to be in compliance with all other applicable physical security requirements as described in 10 CFR 73.55 and reflected in its current NRC-approved physical

security program. By March 31, 2011, GGNS also stated that it will be in full compliance with the regulatory requirements of 10 CFR 73.55, as issued on March 27, 2009.

#### 4.0 CONCLUSION FOR PART 73 SCHEDULE EXEMPTION REQUEST

The staff has reviewed the licensee's submittal and concludes that the licensee has provided adequate justification for its request for an extension of the compliance date with regard to one specified requirement of 10 CFR 73.55 until March 31, 2011, and another specified requirement of 10 CFR 73.55 until July 30, 2010.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that pursuant to 10 CFR 73.5, "Specific exemptions," an exemption from the March 31, 2010, compliance date is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants the requested exemption.

The NRC staff has determined that the long-term benefits that will be realized when the GGNS modifications are complete justifies extending the full compliance date in the case of this particular licensee. The security measures GGNS needs additional time to complete are new requirements imposed by the March 27, 2009, amendments to 10 CFR 73.55, and are in addition to those currently required by the security orders issued in response to the events of September 11, 2001. Therefore, the NRC staff concludes that the licensee's actions are in the best interest of protecting the public health and safety through the security changes that will result from granting this exemption.

As per the licensee's request and the NRC's regulatory authority to grant an exemption from the March 31, 2010, deadline for the two items specified in the Attachments to Entergy's letters dated January 14, January 18, and February 4, 2010, the licensee is required to be in full compliance with 10 CFR 73.55 by March 31, 2011. In achieving compliance, the licensee is

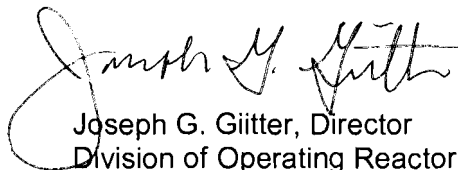
reminded that it is responsible for determining the appropriate licensing mechanism (i.e., 10 CFR 50.54(p) or 10 CFR 50.90) for incorporation of all necessary changes to its security plans.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, "Finding of no significant impact," the Commission has previously determined that the granting of this exemption will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (75 FR 9955; March 4, 2010).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2010.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph G. Giitter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

Joseph G. Giitter, Director  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

March 23, 2010

Vice President, Operations  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
Grand Gulf Nuclear Station  
P.O. Box 756  
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Sincerely,  
/RA by Balwant K. Singal for/

Carl. F. Lyon, Project Manager  
Plant Licensing Branch IV  
Division of Operating Reactor Licensing  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-416

Enclosure:

Exemption

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**ADAMS Accession Nos. Letter: ML100550801, Exemption: ML100550806**

\*memo dated

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DATE	3/1/10	2/26/10	2/23/10	3/3/10
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