



River Bend Station
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Manager, Licensing

RBG-47084

November 4, 2010

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

SUBJECT: Withdrawal of Request for Alternative RBS- ISI-014
Proposed Alternative to 10 CFR 50.55a Examination Requirements for
Reactor Pressure Vessel Weld Inspections
Docket No. 50-458
License No. NPF-47

REFERENCES: 1. Entergy Letter to NRC dated November 30, 2009, Request for
Alternative RBS- ISI-014, Proposed Alternative to 10 CFR 50.55a
Examination Requirements for Reactor Pressure Vessel Weld Inspections
(RBS- ISI-014 / RBG-46978)
2. NRC Email dated May 25, 2010, River Bend Station Request for
Additional Information regarding Relief Request RBS-ISI-014
(ML101450309)
3. Entergy Letter to NRC dated June 22, 2010, Request for Alternative
RBS- ISI-014, Proposed Alternative to 10 CFR 50.55a Examination
Requirements for Reactor Pressure Vessel Weld Inspections (RBS- ISI-014
/ RBG-47040)
4. NRC Email dated September 7, 2010, River Bend Station Request for
Additional Information regarding Relief Request RBS-ISI-014 (ME2818)

Dear Sir or Madam:

In Reference 1, Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy) submitted a request for alternative to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, Sub Article IWB-2500 to implement the requirements of BWRVIP-75-A in lieu of the ASME Code, Section XI requirements and other augmented requirements, for the examination of Category B-F, Item Number B5.10 Nozzle-to-Safe End Butt Welds.

On May 25, 2010, the NRC Staff requested additional information (Reference 2) concerning this request, and the Entergy response was issued June 22, 2010, (Reference 3). Additional questions were received from the NRC staff September 7, 2010, (Reference 4).

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In reference 4, the NRC indicated that BWRVIP-75-A guidance is acceptable for a licensee to reference as the technical basis for a plant specific request for relief from, or as an alternative to, the ASME Code and 10 CFR 50.55a. BWRVIP-75-A allows a reduction in the examination of Category B-F, Item Number B5.10 Nozzle-to-Safe End Butt Welds in lieu of the ASME Code, Section XI requirements and other augmented requirements.

Relief from the ASME Code requirements for Category B-F welds was obtained under RBS-ISI-13; (TAC NO. ME1507) as approved by the NRC on June 30, 2010. In that request River Bend Station indicated that the guidance of BWRVIP-75-A would be followed for B-F welds. The relief granted under RBS-ISI-013 and the guidance in the NRC-approved BWRVIP-75-A permitted reducing inspections to 25% each 10 years when Hydrogen Water Chemistry (HWC) is implemented as defined by BWRVIP-62. River Bend Station implemented HWC beginning in fuel cycle 12 and has maintained the HWC above the guidance in BWRVIP-62 through the current fuel cycle, which is cycle 16.

Request for Alternative RBS-ISI-014 requested to follow the guidance of BWRVIP-75-A for Category B-F inspection percentages. The response to NRC request for additional information dated May 25, 2010 (Reference 2) indicated River Bend Station contained the request to further reduce the inspection percentage from 25% to 10% by crediting noble metal chemical addition (NMCA) which began during the current fuel cycle. The River Bend Station application of NMCA is through the use of the on-line method in lieu of the traditional (classic) method.

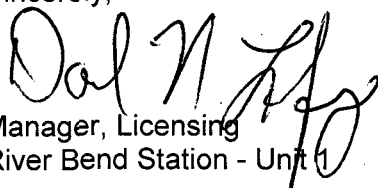
In the request for additional information dated September 7, 2010 (Reference 4) the NRC requested information demonstrating the effectiveness of the NMCA. The response to this request was to be based upon the results of the first coupon removed in support of the NMCA, scheduled for late October 2010. Reference 4 also indicated that the NRC would accept documentation that demonstrated compliance with the criteria contained in BWRVIP-62 for effective NMCA. These criteria are based upon the traditional off-line NMCA method.

After review of the coupon analysis Entergy has determined the data does not support the acceptance criteria contained in BWRVIP-62 for the deposition of NM (platinum). Therefore, Entergy is withdrawing RBS-ISI-14 and will maintain current inspection levels of 25% of Category B-F, Item Number B5.10 Nozzle-to-Safe End Butt Welds.

This information contains no new commitments.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (225) 381-4157.

Sincerely,


Manager, Licensing
River Bend Station - Unit 1

DNL/bmb

cc: Regional Administrator
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