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

January 7, 2011

LICENSEE: Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.

FACILITY: Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL HELD ON DECEMBER 1, 2010, BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AND ENTERGY NUCLEAR OPERATIONS, INC., CONCERNING THE PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (TAC NO. MC9669)

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the staff) and representatives of Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (the applicant) held a telephone conference call on December 1, 2010, to discuss and clarify the staff's draft request for additional information (RAI) concerning the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (Pilgrim) license renewal application. The draft RAI was associated with a review of NUREG-1891, "Safety Evaluation Report Related to the License Renewal of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station," issued on June 28, 2007, and supplemented on September 28, 2007. The telephone conference call was useful in clarifying the intent of the staff's draft RAI.

Enclosure 1 provides a listing of the participants and Enclosure 2 includes the draft RAI discussed with the applicant, including a brief description on the status of the item.

The applicant had an opportunity to comment on this summary.

Lisa M. Regner, Sr. Project Manager
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-293

Enclosures:
As stated

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TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL
PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
DECEMBER 1, 2010

PARTICIPANTS	AFFILIATIONS
Lisa Regner	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Bart Fu	NRC
Allen Hiser	NRC
Joe Lynch	Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Entergy)
Fred Mogolesko	Entergy
Dave Heard	Entergy
Paul Smith	Entergy

ENCLOSURE 1

DRAFT REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (RAI)
PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION (PNPS)
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (LRA)

DECEMBER 1, 2010

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the staff) and representatives of Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (the applicant) held a telephone conference call on December 1, 2010, to discuss and clarify the following draft request for additional information (RAI) concerning the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station license renewal application (LRA).

DRAFT RAI B.1.23-1 – Small Bore Piping Socket Welds

Background:
During the past year, the staff has worked extensively with license renewal applicants, the NEI, and the industry on socket weld examination issues for license renewal. The efforts also included reviews of operating experience and various techniques for examination of socket welds.

The staff finds that volumetric examination of Class 1 small bore socket welds recommended by the GALL Report AMP XI.M35, "One-Time Inspection of ASME Code Class 1 Small-Bore Piping," is warranted based on the operating experience review. It provides additional assurance that either aging of small-bore ASME Code Class 1 piping is not occurring or the aging is insignificant.

The staff noted that a VT-2 examination is required for socket welds by ASME Code, Section XI, but it is only for leakage detection. This examination is not adequate for license renewal aging management since cracking of socket welds, in most cases, starts from the inside surface. By the time a flaw is detected by VT-2 (or a surface examination), the subject component has failed and cannot perform its intended function. This is the reason the GALL Report AMP recommends one time volumetric examinations of small-bore piping including socket welds, because examination of the external surface is not an adequate way to detect cracks initiating on the interior surface of a pipe.

The staff also finds that several demonstrated ultrasonic testing (UT) techniques have recently been developed and used by the nuclear industry. They provide a pass or fail result that is adequate in the examination of socket welds. Recently developed and improved techniques have increased the capability to differentiate construction flaws and service induced flaws. Measures have been made to minimize the possibility of false-positive indications. Nonetheless, the staff understands that, based on the GALL Report, license renewal applicants have the option of performing available industry demonstrated UT, opportunistic destructive examinations, or qualified UT when available, on socket welds.

Issue:
A supplemental review of the One-Time Inspection of ASME Code Class 1 Small-Bore Piping Program in the LRA for PNPS revealed that the examination of socket welds only includes VT-2 and surface examinations. This is not consistent with the recommendation of the GALL Report AMP.

Request:
Update the One-Time Inspection of ASME Code Class 1 Small-Bore Piping Program to include volumetric examinations or opportunistic destructive examinations of socket welds.

Discussion: the applicant stated that it understands the question and will respond to the staff's concern.

January 7, 2011

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FACILITY: Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

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The applicant had an opportunity to comment on this summary.

/RA/

Lisa M. Regner, Sr. Project Manager
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-293

Enclosures:
As stated

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NAME	IKing	LRegner	DWrona	LRegner (Signature)
DATE	12/13/10	12/22/10	1/7/11	1/7/11

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Memorandum to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. from L. Regner dated January 7, 2010

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL HELD ON DECEMBER 1, 2010, BETWEEN THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION AND ENTERGY NUCLEAR OPERATIONS, INC., CONCERNING THE ANNUAL UPDATE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

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