

NRR-PMDAPEm Resource

From: Huffman, William
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2016 12:51 PM
To: CADner@entergy.com; Drews, William
Cc: Pickett, Douglas; Tate, Travis; Khanna, Meena; Williams, Vince; Mossman, Timothy; Held, Wesley; Purdy, Gary; White, Duane; Lamb, John
Subject: Acceptance Review of Request for Exemption from Specific Provision in 10 CFR 73.55(p)(1)(i) and 73.55(p)(1)(ii) for the FitzPatrick NPP upon Permanent Shutdown and Defueling

Mr. Chris Adner
Regulatory Assurance Manager
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant

On November 18, 2015, Entergy Nuclear Operations (ENO) provided a formal notification to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of its intention to permanently cease power operations of the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant (JAF) at the end of the current operating cycle (ADAMS Accession Number ML15322A273). Once certifications for permanent cessation of operation and permanent removal of fuel from the reactor are submitted to the NRC, reactor operation is no longer authorized and the spectrum of credible accidents at the facility will be reduced and there is no longer a need for licensed individuals to monitor core conditions. In lieu of a licensed operators, decommissioning reactors utilize a Certified Fuel Handler (CFH) as the senior on-shift operations representative on site. The CFH at a decommissioning power reactor is an individual who has the requisite knowledge and experience to evaluate plant conditions and make judgments concerning public health and safety.

By letter dated January 15, 2016 (ADAMS Accession Number ML16015A457; CAC MF7281), ENO requested an exemption from 10 CFR 73.55(p)(1)(i) and 73.55(p)(1)(ii), pursuant to 10 CFR 73.5, "Specific exemptions," based on expected operations staffing at JAF upon permanent shutdown. 10 CFR 73.55(p)(1)(i) and 73.55(p)(1)(ii) require, in part, that the suspension of certain security measures during emergency conditions or during severe weather be approved by a licensed senior operator. The exemption request would allow the suspension of certain security measures during emergency conditions or during severe weather by a CFH in addition to a licensed senior operator. If granted, the exemption would become effective when certification of permanent cessation of operation and certification of permanent removal of fuel from the reactor vessel are submitted to the NRC in conjunction with NRC approval of the CFH training program.

The purpose of this e-mail is to provide the results of the NRC staff's acceptance review of ENO's requested exemption. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to begin its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the submittal has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements.

The NRC staff has reviewed ENO's request for exemption from 10 CFR 73.55(p)(1)(i) and 73.55(p)(1)(ii) that would permit a CFH to suspend certain security measures during severe weather or emergency conditions once JAF has permanently shutdown and defueled. The staff has concluded that the proposed exemption request provides technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to begin its detailed technical review of the submittal, and make an independent assessment regarding acceptability of the exemption request. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified, despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. If additional information is needed, you will be advised by separate correspondence.

Please contact me if you have any questions. A copy of this email will be made publicly available in ADAMS.

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