

From: Wengert, Thomas
Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 3:33 PM
To: Arnold, Timothy
Cc: BICE, DAVID B (ANO)
Subject: ANO-1 - Acceptance Review of Relief Request ANO1-ISI-033 (EPID L-2019-LLR-0100)

By letter dated October 31, 2019 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML19304A290), Entergy Operations, Inc. (the licensee) requested that, pursuant to Section 50.55a(z)(2) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) authorize an alternative to performing supplemental examinations of the Arkansas Nuclear One (ANO-1) reactor vessel closure head in accordance with Code Case N-729-4 as conditioned by 10 CFR 50.55a, on the basis that performing the supplemental examinations represents a hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety.

The regulation in 10 CFR 50.55a(z)(2) states that alternatives to the requirements of 10 CFR 50.55a may be authorized by the NRC if the licensee demonstrates that compliance with the specified requirements would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety.

The purpose of this e-mail is to provide the results of the NRC staff's acceptance review of this relief request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed relief request in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. You will be advised of any further information needed to support the NRC staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in your submittal, the NRC staff has estimated the jobhour expenditures to total approximately 150 hours. The NRC staff expects to complete its initial review of the request by your requested date of November 15, 2019. The staff's final evaluation is expected to be completed in approximately 5 months, which is April 2020. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during the routine interactions with the assigned project manager.

These estimates are based on the NRC staff's initial review of the application and they could change due to several factors, including requests for additional information, unanticipated addition of scope to the review, and review by NRC advisory committees or hearing-related

activities. Additional delay may occur if the submittal is provided to the NRC in advance or in parallel with industry program initiatives or pilot applications.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Tom Wengert
Project Manager – Arkansas Nuclear One
NRC/NRR/DORL/LPL4
(301) 415-4037

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