



Entergy Operations, inc.  
P.O. Box 756  
Port Gibson, MS 39150  
Tel 601 437-6470

October 29, 1998

W. K. Hughey  
Director  
Nuclear Safety & Regulatory  
Affairs

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Station P1-37  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Document Control Desk  
  
Subject: Grand Gulf Nuclear Station  
Unit 1  
Docket No. 50-416  
License No. NPF-29  
Analytical Evaluation of CRD Cap Screws

GNRO-98/00084

Gentlemen:

ASME Section XI (the Code) requires that certain inspections be performed during each inspection interval, including the inspection of the Control Rod Drive (CRD) mounting flange cap screws. Certain of the cap screws were rejected by visual examination when indications of degradation were discovered. Conditions found to be unacceptable by visual examination are required to be corrected either by repair or replacement or, alternatively, may be accepted by analytical evaluation conducted in accordance with article IWB-3600 of the Code. An evaluation was subsequently completed which determined that the discovered conditions were acceptable "AS-IS". Because the condition was found to be acceptable by the prescribed evaluation, the remaining cap screws were not required to be removed and inspected.

The enclosed analysis evaluates continued service for the CRD cap screws that are currently installed and have not been replaced as part of any maintenance activity, as the screws may be assumed to contain similar conditions to those discovered during the inspections. The analysis does not permit reinstallation of degraded cap screws because it does not consider the additional cycle of re-torquing and the consequent effect on flaw propagation. The Code requires that any conditions found to be acceptable by analytical evaluation be reported to the NRC in accordance with subparagraph IWB-3125(b). This evaluation is being provided to meet the reporting requirement of the Code and, consequently, Entergy is not requesting review and approval of the analysis. If you have any questions or comments concerning this report, please contact Bill Brice at 601-437-6556.

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Yours truly,

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attachment

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cc:

Ms. J. L. Dixon-Herrity, GGNS Senior Resident (w/a)  
Mr. L. J. Smith (Wise Carter) (w/a)  
Mr. N. S. Reynolds (w/a)  
Mr. H. L. Thomas (w/o)

Mr. E. W. Merschoff (w/a)  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Region IV  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400  
Arlington, TX 76011

Mr. J. N. Donohew, Project Manager (w/2)  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop 13H3  
Washington, D.C. 20555