

Mr. John R. McGaha, Jr.
Vice President - Operations
Entergy Operations, Inc.
River Bend Station
P. O. Box 220
St. Francisville, LA 70775

June 2, 1998

SUBJECT: RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1 - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
REGARDING SECOND INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM PLAN REQUEST
FOR RELIEF (TAC NO. MA0620)

Dear Mr. McGaha:

The staff with assistance from its contractor, the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), is reviewing and evaluating the River Bend Station, Unit 1, second ten-year inservice inspection program plan requests for relief. Entergy Operations, Inc. submitted the request by letter dated January 7, 1998. Additional information is required from Entergy Operations, Inc., in order for the staff to complete its review.

It is requested that Entergy Operations, Inc., provide a response by July 10, 1998, so that we can meet our original date for completing the review. In order to expedite the review process, please send a copy of the response to our contractor, INEEL, at the following address:

Michael T. Anderson
INEEL Research Center
2151 North Boulevard
P.O. Box 1625
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83415-2209

If you have any questions on our request, please call me at 301-415-1301.

Sincerely,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:
David L. Wigginton, Sr. Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-458

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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

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Vice President - Operations
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. Wigginton".

David L. Wigginton, Sr. Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Mr. John R. McGaha
Entergy Operations, Inc.

River Bend Station

cc:

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ENTERGY OPERATIONS, INC
RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1
DOCKET NUMBER 50-458
CIVIL ENGINEERING AND GEOSCIENCES BRANCH
DIVISION OF ENGINEERING

Request for Additional Information (RAI) on the second 10-Year Interval Inservice Requests for Relief

A. Scope/Status of Review

Throughout the service life of a water-cooled nuclear power facility, 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4) requires that components (including supports) that are classified as American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3 meet the requirements, except design and access provisions and preservice examination requirements, set forth in the ASME Code, Section XI, "Rules for Inservice Inspection of Nuclear Power Plant Components," to the extent practical within the limitations of design, geometry, and materials of construction of the components. This section of the regulations also requires that inservice examinations of components and system pressure tests conducted during successive 120-month inspection intervals comply with the requirements in the latest edition and addenda of the Code incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a(b) on the date 12 months prior to the start of the interval, subject to the limitations and modifications listed therein. The components (including supports) may meet examination requirements set forth in subsequent editions and addenda of the Code that are incorporated by reference in 10 CFR 50.55a(b) subject to the limitations and modifications listed therein and subject to Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval. The licensee, Entergy Operations, Inc, prepared the second ISI interval program plan to meet the requirements of the 1992 Edition of the ASME Code Section XI. The second 10-year interval began December 1, 1997.

As required by 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(5), if the licensee determines that certain Code examination requirements are impractical and requests relief, the licensee shall submit information to the NRC to support that determination.

The staff has reviewed the available information in the second ISI interval Relief Requests RR2-0001 through RR2-0003, submitted January 7, 1998. Based on this

ENCLOSURE

review, the staff has concluded that the information and/or clarification described in the next section is required to complete the review.

B. Additional Information Required

Request for Relief RR2-0003 seeks relief from the surface examination requirements for specific Class 2 pump casing welds that are encased in concrete for the second ISI interval. The licensee is proposing to examine the subject welds only if the pump is disassembled for maintenance. However, during the first ISI interval, a relief request was submitted for the same pump casing welds. In the first interval request, an alternative was proposed to include examinations of the accessible portion of the pump casing welds (examination coverage was as high as 80% in some cases). Explain why accessible portions of the subject pump casing welds are not receiving a surface examination during the second interval. Describe the limitations in detail. In addition, explain how the weld numbering convention used during the first interval corresponds to the welds identified in the second interval relief request. How do the welds identified in RR2-0003 correspond with the weld numbers on the attached Figure 1, "Typical Pump Configuration"? Discuss why the total number of welds for which relief is requested is not the same in the first interval request as in the second interval for each of the subject pumps.

The schedule for timely completion of this review requires that the licensee provides, by the requested date, the above requested information and/or clarifications regarding the second ISI interval relief requests RR2-0001 through RR2-0003.