

Mr. William A. Eaton
 Vice President, Operations GGNS
 Entergy Operations, Inc.
 P. O. Box 756
 Port Gibson, MS 39150

December 29, 1999

SUBJECT: GRAND GULF NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1 - RELIEF FROM AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (ASME) BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL CODE, SECTION XI REPAIR REQUIREMENTS FOR ASME CLASS 3 PIPING (TAC NO. MA5869)

Dear Mr. Eaton:

By letter dated April 1, 1999, Entergy Operations, Inc. (EOI) requested relief from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code, Section XI requirements for repair of ASME Code Class 3 moderate energy piping in the Standby Service Water (SSW) system. The relief request was based upon the licensee's determination, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(5)(iii), that conformance with the ASME Code repair requirements was impractical due to the mode of plant operation in effect at the time when the need for a Code repair was discovered. Furthermore, because ASME Code compliance has since been restored by replacement of the degraded section of piping, relief from the impractical Code requirement was requested for the period of time that temporary non-Code repair was necessary in accordance with guidance provided in Generic Letter 90-05.

The staff's evaluation of the EOI relief request submitted in the letter dated April 1, 1999, is provided in the enclosed Safety Evaluation. Based on the staff's evaluation in accordance with 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(6)(i), the relief request is granted for the specific period of time between discovery of the degraded condition in the SSW system piping, and subsequent replacement of the degraded piping section.

Sincerely,
 ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Robert A. Gramm, Chief, Section 1
 Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
 Division of Licensing Project Management
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-416

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Grand Gulf Nuclear Station

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May 1999