



Entergy Operations, Inc.
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Rick J. King
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Nuclear Safety Assurance

January 10, 2000

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: River Bend Station - Unit 1
Docket No. 50-458
License No. NPF-47
License Amendment Request (LAR) 99-31, "Heavy Load Exception to Allow
Movement of Spent Fuel Pool Gates to Replace Gate Seal"

Reference License Amendment Request (LAR) 99-31, "Heavy Load Exception to Allow
Movement of Spent Fuel Pool Gates to Replace Gate Seal," Dated December 16,
1999, (RBG-45204)

File Nos.: G9.5, G9.42

RBF1-00-0005
RBG-45221

Ladies and Gentlemen:

By letter dated December 16, 1999, Entergy Operations, Inc. (EOI) submitted an application for amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-47, for River Bend Station (RBS). This request involves an unreviewed safety question (USQ) concerning the movement of spent fuel pool gates to replace gate seals, which constitutes a "heavy load" movement over irradiated spent fuel.

As a result of continuing discussions between the NRC and EOI personnel, concerning the scope and schedule of the response, RBS proposes this request be reviewed as a one time request to support Refueling Outage (RF)-9. This limitation will allow EOI to address the immediate repair of the IFTS gate seal thereby allowing RF-9 to proceed. To accomplish this limitation, EOI proposes the following will be included in the approval of the request: "The lifting of fuel pool gates for repair or seal replacement is limited to the end of Refueling Outage 9."

At the conclusion of RF-9, EOI will remove the associated revisions to the TRM and USAR thereby preventing future movements of the gates. As discussed with the NRC Staff, EOI

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intends to pursue a permanent revision to the heavy load movement restrictions over irradiated spent fuel to address similar issues in the future.

The NRC approval is requested by January 17, 2000 to support activities that relate directly to critical path outage time in preparation for Refueling Outage-9, scheduled to begin March 4, 2000. Approval prior to the outage is necessary to maintain equipment to support fuel movement for refueling beginning early in the refueling outage.

If you have any questions regarding this request or require additional information, please contact Mr. Joseph W. Leavines at (225) 381-4642.

Sincerely,



RJK/JWL/BMB

Attachment

cc: U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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