

March 23, 2000

Mr. Randall K. Edington  
Vice President - Operations  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
River Bend Station  
P. O. Box 220  
St. Francisville, LA 70775

SUBJECT: RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1 - WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION FOR  
LICENSE AMENDMENT TO REVISE THE REACTOR VESSEL MATERIAL  
SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM CAPSULE WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULE  
(TAC NO. MA7008)

Dear Mr. Edington:

By application dated October 25, 1999, Entergy Operations, Inc. (EOI), requested a revision to the reactor vessel material surveillance program capsule schedule as required by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), Part 50, Appendix H, Section III.B.3. The letter proposed that the schedule for removal of the first River Bend Station (RBS) reactor vessel surveillance capsule, as defined in Technical Requirements Manual, Table 3.4.11-1, be changed from 10.4 effective full power years (EFPY) to 13.4 EFPY. The first surveillance capsule removal had previously been deferred from 6 to 10.4 EFPY in accordance with License Amendment No. 92, approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on February 13, 1997. During a telephone conference on January 5, 2000, EOI representatives indicated that the intent of the October 25, 1999, request was to defer removal of the first capsule to refueling outage 10, scheduled for fall 2001. By letter dated January 12, 2000, EOI amended its original submittal, and requested deferral of the first capsule withdrawal to 11.5 EFPY.

In subsequent conversations between EOI and the NRC, the staff outlined a number of concerns relating to the October 25, 1999, and January 12, 2000, submittals. The issues raised by the staff were documented in the summary of the NRC/EOI public meeting held on February 10, 2000. The meeting summary was published on February 25, 2000. (See Accession Number ML003687512.)

By letter dated March 2, 2000, EOI requested that the proposed license amendment to revise the reactor vessel surveillance capsule removal schedule be withdrawn. In that letter, EOI indicated that RBS still intends to participate in the Integrated Surveillance Program. In addition, the letter also mentioned that EOI is considering the possibility of requesting an extension to the test results submittal time frame as allowed by 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix H. The NRC staff recommends that consideration be given to the potential impact that an extension to this requirement may have on the ongoing NRC staff review of the power uprate application. The staff has noted that resolution of issues regarding the fluence determination will be necessary, as it affects the establishment of reactor pressure vessel pressure-temperature limits. The staff encourages that further discussions on this subject be initiated prior to the completion of its power uprate review.

R. K. Edington

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March 23, 2000

The Commission has filed the enclosed Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Amendment to Facility Operating License with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Robert J. Fretz, Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-458

Enclosure: Notice of Withdrawal

cc: See next page

R. K. Edington

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March 23, 2000

The Commission has filed the enclosed Notice of Withdrawal of Application for Amendment to Facility Operating License with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Robert J. Fretz, Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-458

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May 1999

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ENTERGY OPERATIONS, INC.

DOCKET NO. 50-458

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION FOR  
AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has granted the request of Entergy Operations, Inc. (the licensee), to withdraw its October 25, 1999, application, as supplemented by letter dated January 12, 2000, for a proposed amendment to Facility Operating License No. NPF-47 for the River Bend Station, Unit 1, located in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

The proposed amendment would have revised the reactor vessel material surveillance program capsule schedule, defined in Technical Requirements Manual, Table 3.4.11-1, as required by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 50, Appendix H, Section III. The licensee had originally requested that the schedule to remove its first surveillance capsule be changed from 10.4 effective full power years (EFPY) to 13.4 EFPY. The January 12, 2000, letter subsequently requested that the capsule removal schedule be 11.5 EFPY.

The Commission had previously issued a Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment, which was published in the *Federal Register* on December 15, 1999 (64 FR 70083). However, by letter dated March 2, 2000, the licensee withdrew the proposed change.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for amendment dated October 25, 1999, supplemental letter dated January 12, 2000, and the licensee's letter dated March 2, 2000, which withdrew the application for license amendment. The above documents

are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and accessible electronically through the ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room link at the NRC Web site (<http://www.nrc.gov>).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of March 2000.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

*/RA/*

Robert J. Fretz, Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation