



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

170
Exemption

August 18, 1998

Mr. C. Randy Hutchinson
Vice President, Operations ANO
Entergy Operations, Inc.
1448 S. R. 333
Russellville, AR 72801

DN
Glenn
8/20/01 history
of Exemptions
Granted

Dear Mr. Hutchinson:

This letter is to inform you that the requirement to pay a fee under 10 CFR Part 170 for the review of your pilot plant applications for the use of Risk Informed Inservice Inspection (RI-ISI) methodologies for the Arkansas Nuclear One (ANO) Unit 1, RI-ISI submittal (TAC MA2023), and the ANO Unit 2, RI-ISI submittal (TAC M99756) has been waived. For the reasons stated below, exemptions from the 10 CFR Part 170 fees are granted in accordance with 10 CFR Part 170.11(b)(1).

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has encouraged licensees to submit applications for the RI-ISI pilot programs under one umbrella sponsoring organization, e.g., the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), for demonstrating risk-informed methodologies to be used for piping segment and piping structural element selection in systems scheduled for inservice inspections. To provide a permanent approach to RI-ISI, the staff intends to utilize the experience gained through the pilot plant applications in order to propose changes to 10 CFR 50.55a and related regulatory guidance documents. The nuclear industry has submitted two methodologies for implementing RI-ISI. One methodology has been jointly developed by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Research and Westinghouse Owners Group (WOG) and the other methodology is being sponsored by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI).

The application submitted by Entergy Operations, Inc., dated September 30, 1997, (M99756) utilized the EPRI RI-ISI methodology, for which ANO Unit 2 is a pilot plant. The ASME Code Case N-560 provides the alternate examination requirements for Class 1, Category B-J piping welds. Code Case N-560 is applicable only to ASME Class 1 piping systems. The application submitted by Entergy Operations, Inc., on June 3, 1998, (MA2023) utilizes the Code Case N-560 method for ANO Unit 1. The staff will review the EPRI methodology applied to ANO Unit 2 as well as the pilot applications of Code Case N-560 for Vermont Yankee and ANO Unit 1.

The development of the RI-ISI programs will provide guidance to power reactor licensees and the NRC staff on an acceptable approach for utilizing risk information to support plant-specific changes to the licensing basis for inservice inspection programs. The program has the potential to optimize the use of NRC and industry resources while continuing to assure adequate protection of the public health and safety.

Based on the foregoing, I have determined that exemptions from the 10 CFR Part 170 fee requirements for the review of the ANO Unit 2 pilot RI-ISI submittal dated September 30, 1997, and the ANO Unit 1 pilot RI-ISI submittal dated June 3, 1998, are appropriate. The exemptions are authorized by law and are granted in accordance with 10 CFR 170.11(b)(1).

The \$16,179 paid to date for the review of the ANO Unit 2 submittal (TAC No. M99756) will be refunded. You should receive the refund in approximately 30 days. You have received an invoice dated July 20, 1998, (RL0548-98) with costs for the review of the RI-ISIs (TACs M99756 and MA2023) for the time frame March 29, 1998, through June 20, 1998. The additional amount of \$7,336 will also be refunded, if paid prior to receipt of this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Poteat of my staff at 301-415-6392.

Sincerely,
Original signed by Jesse Funches

Jesse L. Funches
Chief Financial Officer

Docket Nos. 50-313 and 50-368

cc: See next page

DAF 8-194

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*7/11/98
JLH*

Mr. C. Randy Hutchinson
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Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 & 2

cc:

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