

From: Wang, Alan
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 9:13 AM
To: 'BURMEISTER, BARRY M'; Joseph Clark (JCLARK@entergy.com)
Cc: Lent, Susan; Burkhardt, Janet
Subject: RIVER BEND STATION, UNIT 1 – SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION NEEDED FOR ACCEPTANCE OF REQUESTED LICENSING ACTION RE: RELIEF REQUEST BASED ON ASME CODE Case N-804 (TAC NO. ME7802)
Attachments: River Bend Acceptance 2012-02-03 (2).doc

Barry and Joey,

By letter dated December 22, 2011, Entergy Operations Inc. (the licensee), requested, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a, relief from Table ND-4622.7 of Section III of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code for the River Bend Station (RBS). The proposed relief request relates to certain ASME Code Class 3 replacement valves which were installed and later determined not to be in compliance with the heat treatment requirements of Table ND-4622.7 of the Code. Through the use of ASME Code Case N-804 the licensee proposes an alternative to the heat treatment requirements of Table ND-4622.7 of Section III of the Code. The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this relief request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Pursuant to Sections 50.55a(a)(3)(i) and 50.55a(a)(3)(ii) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), the applicant shall demonstrate that the proposed alternatives would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety, or that compliance with the specified requirements of Section 50.55a would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality or safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that the information delineated in enclosure to this letter is necessary to enable the NRC staff to make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed relief request in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment.

In order to make the application complete, the NRC staff requests that Entergy supplement the application to address the information requested in the attachment by March 5, 2012. This will enable the NRC staff to begin its detailed technical review. If the information responsive to the NRC staff's request is not received by the above date, the application will not be accepted for review pursuant to 10 CFR 2.101, and the NRC will cease its review activities associated with the application. If the application is subsequently accepted for review, you will be advised of any further information needed to support the staff's detailed technical review by separate correspondence.

The information requested and associated timeframe in this letter were discussed with Barry Burmeister of your staff on February 17, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-1445 or Alan.Wang@NRC.GOV.

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