

April 29, 2004

Mr. F. G. Burford, Acting Director
Nuclear Safety & Licensing
Entergy Operations, Inc.
1340 Echelon Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213-8298

SUBJECT: ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT 1 (ANO-1) - RELAXATION REQUEST
FROM U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC)
"ORDER MODIFYING LICENSES (EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY)" (EA-03-009),
ISSUED FEBRUARY 11, 2003, FOR THE REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL
HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLES (TAC NO. MC1915)

Dear Mr. Burford:

By letter dated February 3, 2004, as supplemented by letter dated April 21, 2004, Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy or the licensee) requested relaxation to implement an alternative to the requirements of Section IV.C.(1)(b)(i), of the Order for sixty control rod drive mechanism (CRDM) nozzles and one radiation calibration instrumentation nozzle at ANO-1. Specifically, pursuant to the process specified in Section IV, Paragraph F of the Order, you requested relaxation from the requirement specified in Section IV.C.(1)(b)(i), to instead perform inspections using ultrasonic testing and analysis.

The NRC staff has completed its review and concludes that the proposed alternative examination of the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) head provides reasonable assurance of structural integrity of the head. Further inspection of the head surface in accordance with Section IV.C.(1)(b)(i) of the Order would result in hardship without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety. Thus, you have demonstrated good cause for the requested relaxation. Therefore, pursuant to Section IV, Paragraph F of the Order, I authorize, for one operating cycle commencing with the startup from the Spring 2004 refueling outage, the proposed alternative inspection for sixty CRDM head penetration nozzles and one radiation calibration instrumentation nozzle at ANO-1, subject to the following condition:

If the NRC staff finds that the crack-growth formula in MRP-55 is unacceptable, Entergy shall revise its analysis that justifies relaxation of the Order within 30 days after the NRC informs Entergy of an NRC-approved crack-growth formula. If Entergy's revised analysis shows that the crack growth acceptance criteria are exceeded prior to the end of the operating cycle which follows the current refueling outage, this relaxation is rescinded and Entergy will, within 72 hours, submit to the NRC written justification for continued operation. If the revised analysis shows that the crack growth acceptance criteria are exceeded during the subsequent operating cycle, Entergy shall, within 30 days, submit the revised analysis for NRC review. If the revised analysis shows that the crack growth acceptance criteria are not exceeded during either the upcoming operating cycle or the subsequent operating cycle, Entergy shall, within 30 days, submit a letter to the NRC confirming that its analysis has been revised. Any future

crack-growth analyses performed for the upcoming operating cycle and future cycles for RPV head penetrations will be based on an NRC-acceptable crack growth rate formula.

The staff's related Safety Evaluation (SE) is enclosed.

Pursuant to 2.390 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), we have determined that the enclosed SE does not contain proprietary information. However, we will delay placing the SE in the public document room for ten working days from the date of this letter to provide you with the opportunity to comment on the proprietary aspects only. If you believe that any information in the enclosure is proprietary, please identify such information line by line and define the basis pursuant to the criteria of 10 CFR 2.390.

Be aware that when vessel head inspections are performed using American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (Code) requirements, acceptance criteria, or qualified personnel, those activities and all related activities fall within the jurisdiction of the ASME Code. Therefore, Order-related inspection activities may be subject to third party review, including those by the Authorized Nuclear Inservice Inspector.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-313

Enclosure: SE

cc w/o encl: See next page

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/RA/

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate IV
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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*SE input with no major changes.

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Arkansas Nuclear One

Executive Vice President
& Chief Operating Officer
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 31995
Jackson, MS 39286-1995

Director, Division of Radiation
Control and Emergency Management
Arkansas Department of Health
4815 West Markham Street, Slot 30
Little Rock, AR 72205-3867

Winston & Strawn
1400 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3502

Mr. Mike Schoppman
Framatome ANP, Richland, Inc.
Suite 705
1911 North Fort Myer Drive
Rosslyn, VA 22209

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 310
London, AR 72847

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 400
Arlington, TX 76011-8064

County Judge of Pope County
Pope County Courthouse
Russellville, AR 72801

Vice President, Operations Support
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 31995
Jackson, MS 39286-1995

Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway
P. O. Box 651
Jackson, MS 39205

Mr. Jeffrey S. Forbes
Site Vice President
Arkansas Nuclear One
Entergy Operations, Inc.
1448 S. R. 333
Russellville, AR 72801