March 4, 2003

Craig G. Anderson, Vice President,
Operations
Arkansas Nuclear One
Entergy Operations, Inc.
1448 S.R. 333
Russellville, Arkansas 72801-0967

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE
(REPORT 50-313/03-01; 50-368/03-01)

Dear Mr. Anderson:

On February 6, 2003, the NRC completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of the Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2. The end-of-cycle review for Arkansas Nuclear One involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2002. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections that may conflict with your plant activities.

Overall, Arkansas Nuclear One operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter, as well as for the first three quarters of the assessment cycle, was within the Licensee Response Column of the NRC’s Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all performance indicators indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility through March 31, 2004.

However, the significance of two findings is still under review as part of the Significance Determination Process: (1) a fire protection program finding related to the use of manual actions to achieve safe shutdown; and (2) a repeat reactor coolant system boundary leak. Depending on the outcome of this review, these findings could result in required supplemental inspections.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through March 31, 2004. While not scheduled, we also plan to conduct Temporary Instruction 2515/150, Revision 1, Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles," on Unit 2 in coordination with your fall outage. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last six months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the midcycle review meeting.
As you are aware, since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the NRC has issued several Orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness. We have conducted inspections to review your implementation of these requirements and have monitored your actions in response to changing threat conditions. For calendar year 2003, we plan to continue these inspections and conduct portions of the security baseline inspection program, as well as perform additional inspections to evaluate your compliance with new requirements that may be ordered. Based on our final determinations in this regard, we will notify you of any inspection plan changes.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosure, and your response will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC’s document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at 817-860-8137 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Linda Joy Smith, Chief
Project Branch D
Division of Reactor Projects

Dockets: 50-313
50-368

Licenses: DPR-51
NPF-6

Enclosure:
Arkansas Nuclear One Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/enclosure:
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W. A. Maier, RSLO (WAM)
C. J. Gordon (CJG)
DRS Branch Chiefs (TWP, ATG, CSM)
W. D. Travers, EDO (WDT)
C. A. Carpenter, Chief, NRR/DIPM/IIPB (CAC)
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S. Morris, Acting Chief, Regional Operations Staff, OEDO (SAM1)
H. Berkow, NRR Project Director (HNB)
R. Gramm, Chief, Section 1, NRR/DLPM (RAG)
C. Nolan, NRR Project Manager (MCN)
T. Alexion, NRR Project Manager (TWA)
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<th>Unit Number</th>
<th>Inspection Activity</th>
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1.  Response to Contingency Events (Protective Strategy and Implementation of Protective Strategy)  
2.  Performance Indicator Verification  
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