March 3, 2008

Timothy G. Mitchell  
Vice President Operations  
Arkansas Nuclear One  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
1448 S.R. 333  
Russellville, AR 72802-0967

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER – ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE  
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT 05000313/368-2008001)

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

On February 6, 2008, the NRC staff completed its performance review of Arkansas Nuclear One (ANO), Units 1 and 2. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2007. 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.

This performance review and enclosed inspection plan do not include security information. A separate letter designated and marked as "Official Use Only--Security Information" will include the security cornerstone review and resultant inspection plan.

Overall, ANO Units 1 and 2 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 reactor oversight process baseline inspections at your facility.

The NRC staff has identified a substantive crosscutting issue in the human performance area at Arkansas Nuclear One. There was a total of 14 Green findings with crosscutting aspects in the human performance area. A crosscutting theme was identified in the component of decision making (instances of not using conservative assumptions and failure to verify the validity of underlying assumptions used). Six Green findings were related to this theme, affecting the Initiating Events, Mitigating Systems, and Barrier Integrity cornerstones. Examples include: a failure to control critical design parameters of a control room damper during a modification to address a previous failure of the damper, a failure to adequately monitor the performance of the emergency switchgear chillers in accordance with the maintenance rule, and a failure to follow applicable work management procedures while conducting instrumentation and control maintenance to adjust a limiting safety system setting parameter associated with the reactor.
protection system. To address these problems, we understand your staff has conducted an apparent cause determination to identify potential recommendations for improvement in this area. However, full implementation of these actions is not yet complete, and we have a concern with the progress of your corrective actions given the nature of the findings and observations during NRC inspections. Therefore, this substantive crosscutting issue in human performance was identified and will remain open until we determine, through the implementation of focused baseline inspections, that corrective actions implemented in accordance with your improvement initiatives have adequately addressed these issues.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, except those related to physical protection, scheduled through June 30, 2009. The inspection plan is provided to allow for the resolution of any scheduling conflicts and personnel availability issues well in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspections in the last nine months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the midcycle review.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure 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](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html) (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at 817-860-8147 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jeffrey A. Clark, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch E
Division of Reactor Projects

Dockets: 50-313
50-368

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NPF-6

Enclosure: Arkansas Nuclear One Inspection/Activity Plan

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