March 3, 2010

Kevin Walsh, Vice President, Operations
Entergy Operations, Inc.
Arkansas Nuclear One
1448 SR 333
Russellville, AR  72802

SUBJECT:  ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE
(REPORT 5000313/2010001 AND 05000368/2010001)

Dear Mr. Walsh:

On February 16, 2010, the NRC staff completed its performance review of Arkansas Nuclear One. Our technical staff reviewed performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2009. 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, Arkansas Nuclear One, 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, 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).

While plant performance for the most recent quarter is within the Licensee Response column of the Action Matrix, there were safety significant performance indicators affecting the first three quarters of the assessment cycle. Specifically, Unit 1 was within the Regulatory Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix for exceeding the performance indicator for the number of unplanned scrams per 7000 critical hours. A 95001 supplemental inspection was conducted in June of 2009 whereby it was concluded that the root causes of the unplanned reactor scrams were adequately defined and understood and the corrective actions resulting from the evaluations appropriately addressed the identified causes.

The staff also identified that there were four Green findings for the current 12-month assessment period with documented crosscutting aspects in the problem identification and resolution area. There is a crosscutting theme associated with these findings that involves the thoroughness of problem evaluation [P.1(c)]. While there were four Green inspection findings
with documented crosscutting aspects in problem identification and resolution associated with this crosscutting theme, we understand that this represents a recent performance trend. Once identified, you placed this issue into your corrective action program and are currently developing plans to address this issue. Because you have taken actions to address this recent performance trend, the staff did not identify a substantive crosscutting issue in problem identification and resolution. We will monitor the effectiveness of your corrective actions during the next assessment period.

Additionally, the staff will also be conducting IP 92723, “Follow Up Inspection for Three or More Severity Level IV Traditional Enforcement Violations in the Same Area in a 12-Month Period,” to follow up on four Severity Level IV violations in the traditional enforcement area of “impeding the regulatory process.”

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections, less those related to physical protection scheduled through June 30, 2011. 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 mid-cycle 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 Agencywide Documents Access and Management 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) 860-8147 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dwight D. Chamberlain, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-313, 50-368
License Nos. DPR-51; NPF-6

Enclosure: Arkansas Nuclear One Inspection/ Activity Plan
cc.
Senior Vice President
& Chief Operating Officer
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P.O. Box 31995
Jackson, MS  39286-1995

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

David Bice
Acting Manager, Licensing
Arkansas Nuclear One
1448 SR 333
Russellville, AR  72802

Joseph A. Aluise
Associate General Counsel – Nuclear
Entergy Services, Inc
639 Loyola Avenue
New Orleans, LA  70113

Senior Manager, Nuclear Safety & Licensing
Entergy Nuclear Operations
P.O. Box 31995
Jackson, MS  39286-1995

Chief, Radiation Control Section
Arkansas Department of Health
4815 West Markham Street, Slot 30
Little Rock, AR  72205-3867

Jim E. Gibson
County Judge of Pope County
100 West Main Street
Russellville, AR  72801

Arkansas Department of Health
Radiation Control Section
4815 West Markham Street, Slot 30
Little Rock, AR  72205-3867
David E. Maxwell, Director
Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, Bldg. 9501
Camp Joseph T. Robinson
North Little Rock, AR 72199

Chief, Technological Hazards Branch
FEMA Region VI
800 North Loop 288
Federal Regional Center
Denton, TX 76209

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

Judge of Pope County Courthouse
100 West Main Street
Russellville, AR 72801

Arkansas Department of Emergency Management
Bldg. 9501
Camp Joseph T. Robinson
North Little Rock, AR 72199

Emergency Service Coordinator
P.O. Box 119
Morrilton, AR 72110

Emergency Service Coordinator Pope County
No. 4 Emergency Lane
Russellville, AR 72801

Emergency Service Coordinator Yell County Courthouse
Union Street
Dardanelle, AR 72834

Emergency Service Coordinator Johnson County Office of Emergency Services
P. O. Box 546
Clarksville, AR 72830
Emergency Service Coordinator
Logan County Office of Emergency Services
Logan County Courthouse
Paris, AR 72855

The Mayor the City of Danville
P.O. Box 69
Danville, AR 72833

The Mayor of the City of Paris
P.O. Box 271
Paris, AR 72855

The Mayor of the City of Dardanelle
P.O. Box 360
Dardanelle, AR 72834

The Mayor of the City of Clarksville
205 Walnut Street
Clarksville, AR 72830-3005

Judge of Logan County
Room 22
Paris, AR 72855

The Mayor of the City of Dover
P. O. Box 192
Russellville, AR 72811

The Mayor of the City of Atkins
P. O. Box 128
Atkins, AR 72823

The Mayor of the City of Russellville
P.O. Box 428
Russellville, AR 72811

The Mayor of the City of London
P.O. Box 130
London, AR 72847

The Mayor of the City of Morrilton
City Hall
P.O. Box 583
Morrilton, AR 72110
Judge of Yell County
Danville Courthouse
P.O. Box 219
Danville, AR  72833

Judge of Conway County
117 South Moose, Room 203
Morrilton, AR  72110

Judge of Johnson County
P.O. Box 278
Clarksville, AR  72830
Entergy Operations, Inc.

Electronic distribution by RIV:
Regional Administrator (Elmo.Collins@nrc.gov)
Deputy Regional Administrator (Chuck.Casto@nrc.gov)
DRP Director (Dwight.Chamberlain@nrc.gov)
DRP Deputy Director (Anton.Vegel@nrc.gov)
DRS Director (Roy.Caniano@nrc.gov)
DRS Deputy Director (Troy.Pruett@nrc.gov)
Branch Chief, DRP/E (Jeff.Clark@nrc.gov)
Senior Project Engineer, DRP/E (Ray.Azua@nrc.gov)
Senior Resident Inspector (Fred.Sanchez@nrc.gov)
Branch Chief, DRS/TSB (Michael.Hay@nrc.gov)
RITS Coordinator (Marisa.Herrera@nrc.gov)
Public Affairs Officer (Victor.Dricks@nrc.gov)
Public Affairs Officer (Lara.Uselding@nrc.gov)
Regional State Liaison Officer (Bill.Maier@nrc.gov)
RA Administrative Assistant (Lucy.Owen@nrc.gov)
DRA Administrative Assistant (Anita.Tannenbaum@nrc.gov)
Branch Chief, DRS/EB1 (Thomas.Farnholtz@nrc.gov)
Branch Chief, DRS/EB2 (Neil.Keefe@nrc.gov)
Branch Chief, DRS/PSB1 (Michael.Shannon@nrc.gov)
Branch Chief, DRS/PSB2 (Greg.Werner@nrc.gov)
Branch Chief, DRS/OB (Mark.Haire@nrc.gov)
OEDO RIV Coordinator (Leigh.Trocine@nrc.gov)
Director, DIRS, NRR (Frederick.Brown@nrc.gov)
Director, DORL, NRR (Joseph.Giitter@nrc.gov)
Deputy Director, DORL, NRR (Robert.Nelson@nrc.gov)
Chief, PLB IV, DORL, NRR (Michael.Markley@nrc.gov)
NRR Project Manager (Kaly.Kalyanam@nrc.gov)
RidsNrrDirslpab Resource@nrc.gov
ROPreports.Resource@nrc.gov
Congressional Affairs Officer (Jenny.Weil@nrc.gov)
mortensengk@INPO.org

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This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities. This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.
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