

September 26, 2000

Mr. Craig G. Anderson
Vice President, Operations ANO
Entergy Operations, Inc.
1448 S. R. 333
Russellville, AR 72801

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LICENSEE'S REVISED INSERVICE TESTING PROGRAM
FOR THIRD INTERVAL AT ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT 1 (ANO-1)
(MA7045)

Dear Mr. Anderson:

By letter dated December 1, 1997, Entergy Operations, Inc. (EOI or the licensee) submitted a proposed inservice testing (IST) program for the third 10-year interval for ANO-1. With assistance from Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), the staff evaluated the proposed IST program. The staff's safety evaluation and the technical evaluation report (TER) prepared by BNL was transmitted by the staff's letter dated October 9, 1998. The staff's letter referred to action items identified in BNL's TER and requested that the licensee provide within one year a response to the identified action items.

By letter dated October 29, 1999, EOI addressed the action items identified in the staff's letter and BNL's TER. The licensee's submittal also included Revision 1 of the IST program for the third interval at ANO-1. The staff has reviewed EOI's response and finds that the action items identified in the TER have been adequately addressed by the licensee. The licensee's submittal dated October 29, 1999, did not contain any additional relief requests that required review by the NRC staff.

The staff discussed with EOI representatives during a telephone call on September 7, 2000, the designation of several check valves in the licensee's IST program as passive. The licensee's representatives stated that their program followed guidance in Section 4.1 of NUREG-1482, "Guidelines for Inservice Testing at Nuclear Power Plants." The staff was still concerned about the application of a passive check valve philosophy to other valves in the licensee's IST program that were not identified in the staff's review of the relief requests associated with the IST program for ANO-1. In the staff's view, the only instance that a check valve would not be considered active is when an adjacent power-operated or manual valve is maintained in the closed position. The closed valve would be either a Category A or B passive valve and the check valve would have no safety-related function. If, however, the isolation valve is an active valve, then the check valve would also be active.

After a brief discussion with the licensee, the staff concluded that the licensee's representatives understood this distinction. The staff finds that no further action on this issue is required for the plant-specific IST program for ANO-1. The staff plans to revise applicable generic guidance documents to clarify the issue of passive check valves that was discussed with the representatives from ANO-1.

This completes the staff's actions on TAC No. MA7045. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

William D. Reckley, Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-313

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Arkansas Nuclear One

cc:

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

Manager, Rockville Nuclear Licensing
Framatone Technologies
1700 Rockville Pike, Suite 525
Rockville, MD 20852

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