

July 9, 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jose A. Calvo, Chief  
Electrical and Instrumentation and Controls Branch  
Division of Engineering  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Stuart A. Richards, Director  
Project Directorate IV /RA/  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: OUTSTANDING WORK BY JAMES J. LAZEVNICK AND AMAR N.  
PAL IN THE EVALUATION OF THE LOAD TAP CHANGING  
TRANSFORMER LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST

By letter dated January 18, 2001, Union Electric Company (licensee for the Callaway plant) submitted a license amendment request for a 10 CFR 50.59 unreviewed safety question (USQ) that was involved in the installation of load tap changing transformers during the recent (April 2001) refueling outage for Callaway. The transformers are to handle degraded grid voltage conditions below minimum operability limits that have been observed by the licensee in the plant switchyard. The new transformers were to allow operation of Callaway with greater variation in grid voltage. The application, however, was received by the staff only about seven weeks before the refueling outage was scheduled to begin. This is a short time for a USQ review.

Because the new transformers would be a significant improvement to the plant for handling degraded grid conditions, Projects considered that the review was sufficiently important to complete the review in time for the amendment to be issued before the outage, if the staff could conclude that the installation of the new transformers was acceptable.

I want to acknowledge the outstanding work done by James J. Lazevnick and Amer N. Pal in quickly reviewing the application and developing questions which were then discussed with the licensee, and, in particular, the work by James Lazevnick in writing the evaluation in a timely manner. Their work with my staff resulted in the review being completed in time for the amendment to be issued before the outage began in April 2001. The result of their efforts on the amendment was that the new transformers were installed in the outage. The new transformers have resulted in a significant improvement in plant protection of the public health and safety. The licensee has also acknowledged its appreciation of the staff's efforts to complete the review in time for the new transformers to be installed in the outage. I consider that Amer N. Pal and, in particular, James J. Lazevnick were major contributors to this success.

cc: S. Collins/J. Johnson  
B. Sheron  
J. Zwolinski

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