

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

May 7, 1998

EA 98-158

C. Randy Hutchinson, Vice President
Operations
Arkansas Nuclear One
Entergy Operations, Inc.
1448 S.R. 333
Russellville, Arkansas 72801-0967

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-313/98-01; 50-368/98-01 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Hutchinson:

An NRC inspection was conducted January 26-30, 1998, at your Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2, reactor facilities. Following the inspection, an exit meeting was held to provide the inspection findings to you and other members of your staff. Subsequently, your staff provided supplemental information to the team on February 18, 1998. Inoffice inspection of this supplemental information was performed through March 30, 1998. During the inspection, the team evaluated your program developed to comply with 10 CFR 50.65, "Requirements for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants" [the Maintenance Rule]. Following the inoffice inspection, an exit was conducted telephonically on March 30, 1998, with your staff. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection.

The inspection results revealed that you had developed and implemented a program that generally met the requirements of 10 CFR 50.65; however, the team identified five violations of the Maintenance Rule.

A violation of the requirements of 10 CFR 50.65(b)(2) was identified. Violation A involves the failure to include the turbine building sump (Unit 2) in the scope of the Maintenance Rule. The failure to include the turbine building sump in the scope of the Maintenance Rule was a concern because of the adverse effect imposed on a safety system (emergency feedwater) as a result of the potential failure of the turbine building sump backflow preventers. However, the additional information you submitted stated an intent to include the turbine building sump in the scope of the Maintenance Rule, to review drain systems of both units for similar adverse effects on safety systems, to develop the performance criteria and evaluate past performance for classification of the turbine building sump system. The team reviewed the additional information, and determined that the concern for adequate scoping of systems was addressed. Therefore, you are not required to respond to this violation.

Violation B involves the failure to satisfy the requirements of 10 CFR 50.65(a)(3). As a result of not establishing appropriate performance measures for several risk-significant structures, systems, and components, the periodic assessment for Unit 1, performed in June 1997, did not

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adequately demonstrate a balance of availability and reliability, since there were no performance criteria established for availability of high risk structures, systems, and components. We are concerned about this violation because failure to properly demonstrate a balance of availability and reliability for risk-significant systems could result in unacceptable system performance relative to preventing or mitigating an accident or transient, thereby, having an adverse impact on safe plant operation.

Violation C involves four examples of a failure to satisfy the requirements of 10 CFR 50.65(a)(2). Specifically, this violation involved the failure to assure that adequate performance measures were established to demonstrate that the performance or condition of certain structures, systems, and components within the scope of the Maintenance Rule program was effectively controlled by appropriate preventive maintenance. We are concerned about this violation because the failure to effectively monitor the performance of structures, systems, and components may result in unacceptable hardware performance.

Violation D involves a failure to satisfy the requirements of 10 CFR 50.65(a)(1). Specifically, this violation involved the failure to establish goals commensurate with safety for the Unit 2 main steam safety valves. The established goals were insufficient to provide reasonable assurance that the main steam safety valves were capable of fulfilling their intended functions. Your staff indicated that the addition of a goal, which included an upper limit of 5 percent for one main steam safety valve, to be commensurate with safety. However, this goal does not provide reasonable assurance that the main steam safety valves would meet their intended functions. We are concerned about this violation because failure to properly establish goals commensurate with safety might not provide adequate assurance of acceptable structure, system, and component performance.

Violation E of the requirements of 10 CFR 50.65(a)(2). Specifically, this violation involved the failure to demonstrate that the 125 Vdc system performance had been effectively controlled through the performance of appropriate preventive maintenance activities. Specifically, a surveillance test failure of a swing charger was not identified as a functional failure. The combination of the missed failure and two previously identified failures resulted in exceeding the system's reliability performance criteria, without an evaluation for establishing necessary goals to monitor the effectiveness of maintenance. We are concerned about this violation because the failure to effectively monitor the performance of structures, systems, and components may result in unacceptable hardware performance.

These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

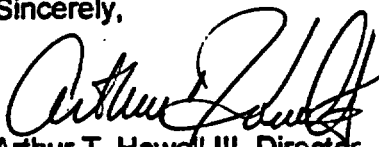
Energy Operations, Inc.

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,


Arthur T. Howell III, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

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

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report
50-313/98-01; 50-368/98-01

cc w/enclosures:

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1700 Rockville Pike, Suite 525
Rockville, Maryland 20852

- E-Mail report to T. Frye (TJF)
- E-Mail report to D. Lange (DJL)
- E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)
- E-Mail report to Document Control Desk (DOCDESK)
- E-Mail report to Richard Correia (RPC)
- E-Mail report to Frank Talbot (FXT)

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- E-Mail report to T. Frye (TJF)
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