

November 10, 2004

MEMORANDUM TO: José A. Calvo, Chief  
Electrical & Instrumentation and Controls Branch  
Division of Engineering

FROM: John G. Lamb, Senior Project Manager ( /RA by JGLamb )  
Electrical & Instrumentation and Controls Branch  
Division of Engineering

SUBJECT: CLOSEOUT OF ISSUES 9, 11, 19, AND 20 RELATED TO FIRST  
ENERGY REGARDING THE ACTION PLAN FOR RESOLVING  
ELECTRICAL GRID CONCERNS (TAC MC3380)

The purpose of this memorandum is to document the closeout of Issues 9, 11, 19, and 20 related to First Energy (FE) the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) regarding the action plan for resolving electrical grid concerns.

The staff identified 48 grid-related issues from a variety of internal and external sources. The 48 issues are listed in ADAMS Accession No. ML042090490. The issues concerned the power outage event on August 14, 2003, as well as related events. The staff performed both a deterministic and risk assessments of the subject grid issues in order to properly characterize their safety significance and priority for staff action.

The following is a description of Issues 9, 11, 19, and 20:

Issue 9 First Energy (FE) states that estimation and contingency analysis tools were not used to assess system conditions.

Issue 11 FE did not notify other systems of an impending system emergency.

Issue 19 FE failed to return the system to a safe operating state within 30 minutes.

Issue 20 Training was inadequate to enable the FE operator to maintain reliable operation.

Issue 9 was placed in the Situational Awareness topical area. Issue 11 was placed in the Offsite Power System Availability topical area in the Communication sub-topic group. Issue 19 was placed in the Offsite Power System Availability topical area in the Operability sub-topic group. Issue 20 was placed in the Training topical area. The staff recognized that Issues 9, 11, 19, and 20 were outside the jurisdiction of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations. Issues 9, 11, 19, and 20 fall within the North American Electric Reliability Council's (NERC's) purview.

On July 13, 2004, NERC completed its "NERC Recommendation Verification Team First Energy Report." The report is located at the NERC public website (<http://www.nerc.com>). Attached is a copy of the NERC report for your convenience.

Overall, the NRC staff reviewed “NERC Recommendation Verification Team First Energy Report,” and the report supports the NRC’s efforts to ensure electrical grid reliability for safe nuclear power plant operation throughout the United States.

The “NERC Recommendation Verification Team First Energy Report,” dated July 13, 2004, by NERC closes out Issues 9, 11, 19, and 20.

Attachment: As stated

Overall, the NRC staff reviewed “NERC Recommendation Verification Team First Energy Report,” and the report supports the NRC’s efforts to ensure electrical grid reliability for safe nuclear power plant operation throughout the United States.

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Attachment: As stated

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