

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

November 30, 1990

Docket Nos. 50-313 and 50-368

Mr. Neil S. Carns Vice President, Operations ANO Entergy Operations, Inc. Route 3 Box 137G Russellville, Arkansas 72801

Dear Mr. Carns:

SUBJECT: LONG-TERM HYDROGEN MONITORING CAPABILITIES AND RELIEF REQUEST FOR ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. 75992 AND 75993)

On January 9, 1990, Arkansas Power and Light Company submitted a letter to the NRC concerning the above subject. The letter included a proposed long-term solution to a design deficiency related to the single-failure criteria for the Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 (ANO-2) Hydrogen Analyzers. In addition, it included a request for relief for ANO-1 and ANO-2 from the NUREG-0737 requirement to have the hydrogen analyzers operable within 30 minutes following a loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA).

The staff has reviewed your submittal and has documented its findings in the enclosed Safety Evaluation (SE). Based on our elluation, we have determined that the proposed solution to the ANO-2 Hydrog allyzer single failure problem based on a completed design change is a captable.

The request for relief from the NUREG-0737 requirement has been found to be unacceptable and is hereby being denied. The staff feels strongly that the requirement to detect hydrogen concentration in containment within 30 minutes after a LOCA is critical to timely and proper determination of plant condition and effective operator actions to mitigate the accident. Your submittal does not provide adequate basis for long-term relaxation of this requirement.

We recommend that you consider options to assure that both plants meet this NUREG-0737 item in the near term. As indicated in your submittal, ANO-1 can meet the 30 minute criterion as designed; however, for ANO-2, you might pursue a system design change, or as an alternative, operating the system continuously.

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We request that you provide within 60 days a response to this letter which addresses the actions you plan to take to meet the 30 minute criterion no later than the completion of the next refueling outage for ANO-2, otherwise provide justification for an alternative schedule in your response.

Sincerely,

Theodore R. Quay, Director Project Directorate IV-1

Theodor R. Quay

Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/enclosure: See next page We request that you provide within 60 days a response to this letter which addresses the actions you plan to take to meet the 30 minute criterion no later than the completion of the next refueling outage for ANO-2, otherwise provide justification for an alternative schedule in your response.

Sincerely.

Theodore & Tray

Theodore R. Quay, Director
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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