



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

April 28, 1992

Docket Nos. 50-313
and 50-368

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

Dear Mr. Carns:

SUBJECT: INSTRUMENTATION TO FOLLOW THE COURSE OF AN ACCIDENT
(REGULATORY GUIDE 1.97)

Section 6.2 of Generic Letter 82-33, "Supplement 1 to NUREG-0737 - Requirements for Emergency Response Capability," requested licensees to provide a report on their implementation of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.97, Rev. 2, "Instrumentation for Light-Water-Cooled Nuclear Power Plants to Assess Plant and Environs Conditions During and Following an Accident," including methods for complying with the Commission's regulations and supporting technical justification for any proposed alternatives or deviations. A large number of exception requests were received from pressurized water reactor (PWR) licensees asking that the environmental qualification requirement for accumulator level and pressure monitoring instrumentation be relaxed from Category 2 to Category 3, allowing commercial grade instruments to be used. Prior to 1987, these requests were denied by the staff. Since then, these exception requests have been considered as open items until a generic resolution could be found.

The staff has now reviewed the bases for these exceptions and has concluded that no operator action is based on this post-accident instrumentation and that it does not perform a safety function. In addition, successful performance of core cooling systems can be inferred from other environmentally qualified instrumentation. Since this instrumentation does not perform any post-accident safety function, its qualification requirements can be reduced to Category 3. A copy of the Safety Evaluation is enclosed.

It is our understanding that you plan to finalize your commitments regarding RG 1.97 by June 1992. You may now utilize Category 3 instrumentation for accumulator level and pressure. Please include in your June submittal a description of the actions you plan to take and the schedule for implementation of these actions.

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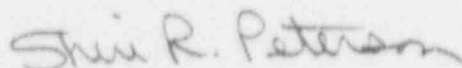
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Mr. Neil S. Carns

- 2 -

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at (301) 504-1325.

Sincerely,



Sheri R. Peterson, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

Mr. Neil S. Carns

- 2 -

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at (301) 504-1325.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Sheri R. Peterson, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV/V
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:
Safety Evaluation

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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DATE	4/21/92	4/23/92	4/25/92

Mr. Neil S. Carns
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Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 & 2

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