

October 13, 1998

OCAN109803

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Subject: Arkansas Nuclear One - Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. 50-313 and 50-368
License Nos. DPR-51 and NPF-6
Revision To Schedule For Conversion To Improved Technical Specifications

Gentlemen:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a change to the proposed schedule for submittal of the Improved Standard Technical Specifications (ISTS) for Arkansas Nuclear One (ANO) Units 1 and 2. Previous schedules projected submittal of the Unit 1 ISTS early in the fourth quarter of 1998 and the Unit 2 submittal for the end of 1999 or early 2000. These schedules were provided in ANO's letter dated September 30, 1997 (OCAN099701), and were based on the availability of site resources as evaluated at that time. Our program requires that the plant organizations which utilize and are responsible for the content of the technical specifications provide substantial involvement in the development of the ISTS. The demands on the organization have been more extensive than anticipated due to other enhancement efforts focused on improving overall plant performance. A more recent evaluation of available resources has identified the need to delay the submittal of the ANO Unit 1 ISTS. The current schedule is for the submittal of the ANO-1 ISTS in fourth quarter of 1999. Once submitted, resources will be made available to work with the NRC staff to facilitate a timely review.

A letter dated November 25, 1997 (1CNA119702), contained two commitments related to the operability requirements of the ANO-1 pressurizer safety valves and associated reporting requirements. This change in schedule for the projected submittal of the ANO-1 ISTS also results in the need to revise these commitments. The previous commitments, associated with NRC Inspection Report 50-313/94-24;50-368/94-24 Unresolved Item 313/94424-02, were:

- 1) Until standard TS are adopted or a license amendment is issued to address this matter, existing TS operability requirements will be interpreted in terms of the standard TS, i.e., pressurizer safety valves are operable when their lift settings are within $\pm 3\%$ of the design pressure.

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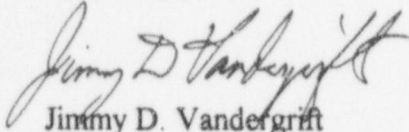
- 2) Not later than the end of 1998, a conversion to the standard TS will be initiated or a TS amendment will be submitted to clarify the safety valve operability requirements in the existing TSs.

As discussed with the NRC Project Manager for ANO, a separate TS submittal to clarify the safety valve operability requirements is not required. ANO will continue to maintain administrative controls interpreting the existing TS operability requirements in terms of the standard TS, i.e., the ANO-1 pressurizer safety valves are operable when their lift settings are within $\pm 3\%$ of the design pressure, until standard TS are adopted.

Entergy Operations also remains committed to the conversion of ANO-2 to the ISTS. However, due to the resources required for the ANO-2 steam generator replacement and the subsequent power uprate, the submittal of the ANO-2 ISTS must also be delayed. Entergy Operations proposes to evaluate the available resources following the ANO-2 steam generator replacement and power uprate and provide a schedule for submittal following those activities.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

Very truly yours,



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Director, Nuclear Safety

JDV/cws

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