

Mr. Craig G. Anderson
Vice President, Operations ANO
Entergy Operations, Inc.
1448 S. R. 333
Russellville, AR 72801

March 22, 2001

SUBJECT: ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNITS 1 AND 2 - PROPOSED MEETING TO
DISCUSS PROMATEC HEMYC 1-HOUR AND MT 3-HOUR FIRE BARRIER
SYSTEMS

Dear Mr. Anderson:

During a November 1999 fire protection inspection at Carolina Power & Light Company's Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant (HNP), Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Region II inspectors identified a potential issue associated with Promatec Hemyc 1-hour and MT 3-hour fire barrier systems not being qualified to meet 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, safe shutdown separation requirements. In a November 23, 1999, Task Interface Agreement (TIA 99-028; Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML003671052), Region II requested the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation's (NRR's) assistance to resolve this issue. In its August 1, 2000, response to TIA 99-028 (ADAMS Accession No. ML003736721), the NRR staff concluded that the fire rating of the installed fire wrap at HNP was indeterminate.

The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) confirmed that the plants listed below use Hemyc or MT fire wrap to comply with 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, safe shutdown separation requirements.

Arkansas Nuclear One Units 1 and 2
Catawba Units 1 and 2
Ginna
Indian Point Units 2 and 3
Robinson 2
Waterford

Beaver Valley Unit 1
FitzPatrick
Harris
McGuire Units 1 and 2
Vermont Yankee

NRR staff had requested that NEI coordinate a generic industry initiative to address the Hemyc and MT fire barrier issue, but NEI declined. Therefore, the staff will be working with the affected licensees to resolve this issue. The staff's planned course of action includes meeting with the affected licensees as a group to discuss (1) the technical issues, (2) the applicability of the issues to the affected plants, and (3) the ultimate resolution of the issue. We are requesting that the affected licensees take the issue on as a voluntary initiative and propose an approach for resolving the issue.

Mr. Craig G. Anderson

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In the near future, the NRC Lead Project Manager for this issue, Richard Laufer, or I will contact you and the other affected licensees to arrange a joint meeting to discuss the Hemyc and MT fire barrier issue. Allowing time for licensees to review and consider the results from the HNP review (TIA 99-028), we estimate that the meeting will take place in the May - June 2001 time-frame.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Thomas W. Alexion, Project Manager
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-313 and 368

cc: See next page

Mr. Craig G. Anderson

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*concurred per 03/12/01 e-mail from R.Laufer

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