

April 13, 2015
EN 15-015

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT
NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Licensee: NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC
Duane Arnold Energy Center
Docket No.: 50-331

EA-14-237

Subject: ISSUANCE OF FINAL SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

This is to inform the Commission that a Notice of Violation (NOV) associated with a White Significance Determination Process finding will be issued on or about April 16, 2015, to NextEra Energy Duane Arnold, LLC, (licensee) as a result of an inspection at the Duane Arnold Energy Center. The White finding, an issue of low to moderate safety significance, will require additional inspections. This White finding involved the licensee's failure to establish adequate quality controls during the application of a torus coating which resulted in an unqualified torus coating in excess of the emergency core cooling system suction strainer design debris loading margin. This finding did not present an immediate safety concern because the unqualified torus coating in excess of the design margin was removed during an outage before the reactor resumed operation. As a result of Duane Arnold's performance, including this White finding, the staff has assessed the unit to be in the Regulatory Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix.

A Notice of Violation is included based on the licensee's failure to meet 10 CFR 50, Appendix B, Criterion IX, "Control of Special Processes," which requires that measures be established to assure that special processes, including welding, heat treating, and nondestructive testing, are controlled and accomplished by qualified personnel using qualified procedures in accordance with applicable codes, standards, specifications, criteria, and other special requirements. Specifically, from November 5 to 10, 2012, the licensee did not control the application of the torus coating, a special process, because the requirements associated with wet film thickness measurements and conditions for recoat application were not contained in design specifications and vendor documentation, nor were they included in qualified procedures. In accordance with the NRC Enforcement Policy, the NOV is considered an escalated enforcement action because it is associated with a White finding.

In response to the preliminary determination letter, NextEra did not contest the characterization of the risk significance of the finding and declined the opportunity to discuss this issue in a Regulatory Conference or provide a position on the finding in writing. After reviewing the information developed during the inspection, the staff concluded that the inspection finding is appropriately characterized as White.

It should be noted that the licensee has not been specifically informed of the enforcement action. The schedule of issuance and notification is:

Mailing of Final Significance Determination
Telephone Notification of Licensee

April 16, 2015
April 16, 2015

The State of Iowa will be notified.

CONTACTS: John Wray, OE, (301) 415-1288 Nick Hilton, OE, (301) 415-2741

DISTRIBUTION: EN-15-015, April 13, 2015

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