



**ENTERGY**

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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  
Response To Inspection Report  
50-313/96-27; 50-368/96-27

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the provisions of 10 CFR 2.201, attached is the response to the notice of violation associated with the failure to notify the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of the declaration of a Notification of Unusual Event (NUE) when notification of the Unit 1 reactor building fire was made on October 17, 1996.

Should you have any questions or comments, please call me at 501-858-4601.

Very truly yours,

Dwight C. Mims  
Director, Licensing

DCM/slp

Attachment

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### NOTICE OF VIOLATION

During an NRC inspection conducted on October 20 through November 30, 1996, one violation of NRC requirements was identified. In accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," NUREG-1600, the violations are listed below:

10 CFR 50.72(a)(1)(i) states, in part, that "Each nuclear power reactor licensee...shall notify the NRC Operations Center via the Emergency Notification System of the declaration of any of the Emergency Classes specified in the licensee's approved Emergency Plan." Further, 10 CFR 50.72(a)(3) states, "The licensee shall notify the NRC immediately after notification of the appropriate State or local agencies and not later than one hour after the time the licensee declares one of the Emergency Classes."

Contrary to the above, on October 17, 1996, the licensee did not inform the NRC Operations Center that they had declared an Unusual Event due to a fire in the Unit 1 reactor building lasting longer than 10 minutes in accordance with their Emergency Plan.

This is a Severity Level IV violation (Supplement I) (50-313; 368/9627-02).

Response to Notice of Violation 313; 368/9627-02

(1) Reason for the violation:

On October 17, 1996, at 4:17 p.m., Arkansas Nuclear One (ANO) Unit 1 declared a Notification of Unusual Event (NUE) based on Emergency Action Level (EAL) 7.5, *Fire or Explosion Onsite*, because of a fire within the Protected Area which was not extinguished within 10 minutes.

The Unit 2 Shift Engineer notified the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and the surrounding counties of the declaration of the NUE at 4:22 p.m. At 4:23 p.m., the fire was extinguished and a reflash watch was established. Plant cooldown/depressurization was initiated at 4:35 p.m. The Unit 2 Shift Engineer then notified the NRC Operations Center of the fire in the reactor building using the Emergency Notifications System (ENS) phone line at 4:50 p.m.

At 5:35 p.m., the NUE was terminated and notification of the termination was initiated with the ADH. The NRC Operations Center was then notified of the NUE termination at 6:00 p.m.

Upon review of ANO's documentation and the audio recording of the ENS notification, the inspector determined that the Unit 2 Shift Engineer had informed the NRC Operations Center of the details of the fire, but failed to note that an NUE had been declared.

The failure to notify the NRC of the declaration of the emergency class was human error.

(2) Corrective steps that have been taken and the results achieved:

An evaluated training session was immediately completed with the Unit 2 Shift Engineer involved with this event. No form errors were identified during this evaluated session.

A memorandum was distributed to notification communicators (including Shift Engineers), Shift Superintendents, Senior Reactor Operators, TSC Directors, and EOF Directors which described the notification errors which occurred during the October 17, 1996 NUE event.

(3) Corrective steps that will be taken to avoid further violations:

Form 1903.011Y, *Emergency Class Notification Initial Message*, and applicable notification checklists were evaluated for possible revisions. A revision to require verbatim transmission of information from Form 1903.011Y to the NRC using the

ENS and a follow-up facsimile to the NRC following initial ENS notification will be implemented following the next Operation's requalification training cycle. This training cycle is scheduled to be complete by April 18, 1997.

(4) Date when full compliance will be achieved:

Full compliance was achieved at 6:00 p.m., on October 17, 1996, when the NRC Operations Center was notified of the termination of the NUE.