



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

511 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

JUN 26 1997

EA 97-168

Garry L. Randolph, Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer
Union Electric Company
P.O. Box 620
Fulton, Missouri 65251

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-483/97-05 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Randolph:

An NRC inspection was conducted February 10-14 and 24-28, 1997, at your Callaway Plant reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection. The overall conclusions of this inspection were discussed with Mr. C. Naslund and others of your staff during a final exit meeting held on June 24, 1997.

The inspection identified two violations involving the failure to make a 10 CFR 50.73 report and to report 10 CFR 50.59 safety evaluations for temporary modifications. Specifically, your staff failed to report that 14 main steam safety valves in Refueling Outage 7 drifted beyond their Technical Specification setpoint tolerances. With respect to the 10 CFR 50.59 safety evaluation reporting, your staff failed to recognize that any safety evaluation, regardless of duration, was required to be reported. These reporting failures indicate a lack of understanding of the NRC reporting requirements.

The violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding these violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

Based on the results of this inspection, three apparent violations were also identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. These apparent violations involved the failure to perform safety evaluations in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.59. The first two apparent violations involved the failure to perform a safety evaluation for a change in the method of operation of the post-accident sampling system and a change to the setpoints of the refueling machine. The third apparent violation involved the substitution of manual operation for the automatic actuation of the diesel generator building supply fans. This substitution may have increased the probability of occurrence of a malfunction of equipment important to safety previously evaluated in the Final Safety Analysis Report and increased the possibility for a malfunction of a different type than any evaluated previously in the Final Safety



Analysis Report. Therefore, this substitution potentially constitutes an unreviewed safety question.

In addition, substituting manual actions for automatic operation of the diesel generator building supply fans made the fans' automatic start function inoperable. Since the fans were a subsystem of the diesel generators, it appeared that your diesel generators were rendered inoperable during the times that the fans were in the "pull-to-lock" condition. Depending on the duration that the supply fan switches were in the "pull-to-lock" position and the ambient temperature conditions, a violation of Technical Specification requirements may have occurred. Therefore, in your response to this inspection report, we request that you provide details regarding the specific circumstances in which the diesel generator building supply fan control switches were in the "pull-to-lock" position.

The circumstances surrounding these apparent violations and the significance of the issues were discussed with members of your staff at the final inspection exit meeting on June 24, 1997. As a result, it may not be necessary to conduct a predecisional enforcement conference in order to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision. However, a Notice of Violation is not presently being issued for these inspection findings. Before the NRC makes its enforcement decision, we are providing you an opportunity to either (1) respond to the apparent violations addressed in this inspection report within 30 days of the date of this letter or (2) request a predecisional enforcement conference. Please contact Mr. Chris A. VanDenburgh at (817) 860-8161 within 7 days of the date of this letter to notify the NRC of your intended response.

Your response should be clearly marked as a "Response to Apparent Violations in NRC Inspection Report 50-483/97-05" and should include for each apparent violation: (1) the reason for the apparent violation, or, if contested, the basis for disputing the apparent violation, (2) the corrective steps that have been taken and the results achieved, (3) the corrective steps that will be taken to avoid further violations, and (4) the date when full compliance will be achieved. Your response should be submitted under oath or affirmation and may reference or include previous docketed correspondence if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. If an adequate response is not received within the time specified or an extension of time has not been granted by the NRC, the NRC will proceed with its enforcement decision or schedule a predecisional enforcement conference.

In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review. You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response (if you choose to provide one) will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

Sincerely,



Arthur T. Howell III, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No.: 50-483
License No.: NPF-30

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report
50-483/97-05

cc w/enclosures:

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E-Mail report to T. Boyce (THB)
 E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)
 E-Mail report to Document Control Desk (L. CDESK)

bcc to DCD (IE01)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

Regional Administrator
 DRP Director
 Branch Chief (DRP/B)
 Project Engineer (DRP/B)
 Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)

Resident Inspector
 DRS-PSB
 MIS System
 RIV File
 Leah Tremper (OC/LFDCB, MS: TWFN 9E10)

DOCUMENT NAME: R:_CW\CW705RP.TFS

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05/07/97		05/07/97	05/07/97	06/1/97	06/1/97
OE <i>for</i>		D:DRP <i>for</i>	D:DRS <i>for</i>		
MVasquez		TPGwynn <i>for</i>	ATHowell		
06/1/97		06/1/97	06/1/97		

*Previously concurred

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