



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 20, 2014

Vice President, Operations
Arkansas Nuclear One
Entergy Operations, Inc.
1448 S.R. 333
Russellville, AR 72802

SUBJECT: ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT 1 – RELAXATION OF THE SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS FOR ORDER EA-12-049 "ISSUANCE OF ORDER TO MODIFY LICENSES WITH REGARD TO REQUIREMENTS FOR MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR BEYOND DESIGN BASIS EXTERNAL EVENTS" (TAC NO. MF0942)

Dear Sir or Madam:

By letter dated March 12, 2012 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML12054A735), the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) ordered Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy, the licensee) to take certain actions at Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 (ANO-1) and 2 (ANO-2), associated with the Fukushima Near-Term Task Force Recommendations. Order EA-12-049 directed that actions be taken by licensees to develop and implement strategies to maintain or restore core cooling, reactor coolant system inventory, containment cooling, and spent fuel pool cooling capabilities during beyond design basis external events (BDBEE).

Section IV of the order states that licensees proposing to deviate from requirements contained in NRC Order EA-12-049 may request that the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, relax or rescind certain conditions. By letter dated April 7, 2014 (ADAMS Accession No. ML14098A114), the licensee informed the NRC of its request for a schedule relaxation of the full implementation schedule requirements for ANO-1 as prescribed in Section IV.A.2 of NRC Order EA-12-049. Entergy has requested an extension for full implementation to coincide with the startup of ANO-2 from refueling outage 2R24 currently scheduled for October 2015. The requested relaxation would move the ANO-1 implementation date from February 2015 to October 2015.

Entergy's letter dated April 7, 2014, provided a basis and justification for the request for schedule relief. Entergy's letter notes that train-specific modifications during ANO-2 refueling outages are required to implement ANO-1 Diverse and Flexible Coping Strategies (FLEX) to utilize the ANO-2 charging pumps, powered by a portable diesel generator (PDG). Specifically, modifications are required to two ANO-2 electrical load centers that provide power separately to independent, safety-related charging pump trains. The modifications are associated with providing a direct connection to a PDG for each of the two diverse, safety-related ANO-2 load centers. Work on both load centers in a single refueling outage would require that both trains of diverse, safety-related switchgear at ANO-2 be taken out of service in the same outage. The licensee states that this is typically not done, in order to reduce risk. Therefore, the licensee

requested that the ANO-1 compliance date be relaxed to allow the modifications to be implemented in separate ANO-2 refueling outages that are pre-scheduled for alternating safety-related switchgear train maintenance.

The licensee's April 7, 2014, letter also identifies that additional risk would be introduced from the extensive schedule changes that would be required to implement the modifications to both trains of safety-related switchgear in a single ANO-2 refueling outage. Introduction into the scheduling process of the additional safety-related train modifications would require the rescheduling of tests associated with the additional train, including numerous motor operated valve tests. The licensee states that this amount of rescheduling flux introduces the risk of improperly mitigating the comprehensive risk of multiple equipment schedule interactions.

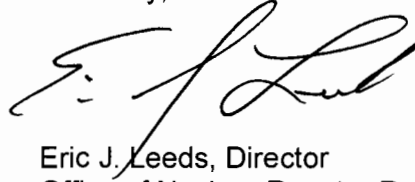
In light of the facts presented in the Entergy's April 7, 2014, letter, the NRC staff has determined that the licensee has presented good cause for a relaxation of the order implementation date for ANO-1. The extension would provide additional time to implement modifications to ANO-2 safety-related switchgear in accordance with prudent outage risk reduction practices and achieve ANO-1 compliance with Order EA-12-049. Implementation of these modifications is a significant action intended to enhance the licensee's capability to cope with a BDBEE. Furthermore, the requested extension will support compliance for ANO-1 before December 2016 and coincident with ANO-2. The NRC staff also considered that, following the accident at Fukushima Dai-ichi, the NRC concluded that a sequence of events such as the Fukushima Dai-ichi accident is unlikely to occur in the United States, based on the current regulatory requirements and existing plant capabilities. Therefore, the extension time of one additional ANO-2 refueling outage for ANO-1 to achieve full implementation of the requirements of the mitigation strategies order is justified and completion before December 2016 is consistent with the intent of the order. These circumstances lead the NRC staff to approve the relaxation of the order implementation date.

Accordingly, based upon the authority granted to the Director, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, the requirement for full order implementation is relaxed for ANO-1 until October 2015.

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If you have any questions, please contact John Hughey, Mitigating Strategies Project Manager, at 301-415-3204, or at john.hughey@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Leeds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Leeds" clearly distinguishable.

Eric J. Leeds, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-313

cc: Listserv

If you have any questions, please contact John Hughey, Mitigating Strategies Project Manager, at 301-415-3204, or at john.hughey@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Eric J. Leeds, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-313

cc: Listserv

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