

March 2, 2000

Mr. John K. Wood
Vice President - Nuclear
FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company
P. O. Box 97, A200
Perry, OH 44081

SUBJECT: OPERATIONAL SAFEGUARDS RESPONSE EVALUATION (OSRE)

Dear Mr. Wood:

The NRC is in the process of conducting Operational Safeguards Response Evaluations (OSREs) at nuclear power reactors. I wish to formally inform you that the Perry Nuclear Power Plant has been chosen for such a review scheduled for the week of April 3 through 6, 2000. This confirms the previously conducted telephonic scheduling.

The primary objective of the OSRE program is to evaluate the readiness of licensee's security force to respond to an external threat. The "onsite security forces" are those specified and committed to in the Perry Physical Security Plan as the minimum number of armed responders always available to respond to a security contingency. This plan commitment could include those responders immediately available and those available at a later time. Additionally, physical modifications to enhance the protection of the plant, such as delay barriers or defensive positions, will have been included in the plan. A focus of these reviews is the priorities established between plant operations and security departments for protection of equipment and the defensive strategies used. These reviews complement NRC's licensing and regional inspection functions.

An OSRE team includes a nuclear system engineer, reactor safeguards specialist, and three NRC contractors. Additional assistance is provided by an inspector from the NRC regional office and an NRC resident inspector.

The first day on site begins with an entrance briefing, which will provide an overview of the team's objectives and anticipated activities for the duration of the visit. Any licensee questions on methodology or other matters are then addressed so that a common understanding can be reached. Also, the suggested schedule for the onsite activities is discussed, and key licensee contact persons are identified. It is through these contact persons that arrangements are made for knowledgeable licensee personnel to escort the team members during the review.

After the entrance briefing, part of the OSRE team takes a general orientation tour of the protected area perimeter and potential target equipment sets. Concurrently, part of the team will meet with appropriate site operations and/or engineering staff to identify the site-specific sets of target equipment to be used in table-top drills and actual onsite response exercises. The team will conduct several tabletop, time-line response drills with response team leaders. The team will also observe actual response exercises, which should be conducted using normal

exercise procedures and participants. Team participation will be limited to scenario selection and exercise observation. Additionally, the team will interview training staff and attend a live-fire weapons demonstration by licensee security officers to observe the weapons range, the course of fire, and the familiarity and proficiency of officers with response weapons. The team nuclear systems engineer will also want to meet with additional plant operators to assure that security systems are not interfering with safe operation of the plant.

Please provide appropriate plant personnel support for the OSRE team during the scheduled evaluation. Specifically, security members will require escorts from the security training department, and the team systems engineer will need an individual familiar with safety equipment location and functional capabilities. The team will make every effort to schedule its activities so as to avoid disruption of normal plant operations. The time that various team members spend on site may vary, but generally will range from eight to ten hours per day. Some of this time is expected to be during evening hours.

If you have any questions regarding the Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation program which you wish to have answered prior to the team's visit, please contact David Orrik, Reactor Safeguards Section at (301) 415-3213, or James Creed at (630) 829-9857 of Region III staff.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James R. Creed, Safeguards Program Manager
Division of Reactor Safety

cc: B. Boger, NRR
C. Christensen, NRR
R. Rosano, NRR
D. Pickett, PM, NRR
C. Lipa, SRI
D. Orrik, NRR

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