



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV
611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 1000
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011

MAR 14 1988

Docket Nos. 50-313/87-29 and 50-368/87-29
License Nos. DPR-51 and NPF-6
EA 87-227

Arkansas Power & Light Company
ATTN: Gene Campbell, Vice President
Nuclear Operations
Post Office Box 551
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND PROPOSED IMPOSITION OF CIVIL PENALTY
(NRC INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-313/87-29, AND 50-368/87-29)

This refers to the inspection conducted by an NRC inspection team on August 18-20, 1987 at the Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2. During this inspection, NRC personnel identified findings that were discussed at an enforcement conference on December 18, 1987, at the NRC Region IV office in Arlington, Texas.

After evaluating the information you presented, one violation was identified which involved the failure to correct a longstanding condition adverse to quality. From the time of startup testing in 1974 until August 1987, when it was identified by the NRC inspectors, temperatures in certain regions of the Unit 1 containment building were considerably higher than the design temperature specified in the Updated Safety Analysis Report (USAR). This condition was recognized by plant personnel during the startup program yet, neither adequate corrective action or evaluation of the problem was accomplished. Of additional concern to the NRC are other problems highlighted by this violation including, the failure to properly report the condition when it was identified and the impact on your environment qualification program including operation of the plant with acoustic monitor preamplifiers in place twenty-one months beyond their qualified life. In total, these problems collectively point towards weaknesses in your design control process which continue to generate potential safety significant problems that have not been identified, analyzed, or properly reported. When the high temperature problem was identified you did perform substantial analyses that were reported in your Justification for Continued Operation (JCO) dated August 28, 1987. You also made a number of short and long term commitments for inspection and improvements to mitigate the temperature problem. The JCO and your commitments were found to be acceptable by the staff and our evaluation was documented in a letter dated October 15, 1987. Based on the inspection findings and on the information presented by your staff during the enforcement conference, the NRC feels that there is a need to further develop or sharpen the safety consciousness throughout your organization such that a recurrence of these problems will be avoided.

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

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To emphasize this need, I have been authorized, after consultation with the Director, Office of Enforcement, and the Deputy Executive Director for Regional Operations, to issue the enclosed Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the violation described in the enclosed Notice. In accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (1987) (Enforcement Policy), the violation described in the enclosed Notice has been categorized at a Severity Level III. The base civil penalty amount has been increased by 100 percent because this violation continued uncorrected for such an extended period of time, notwithstanding your response to the matter following NRC identification of it in August 1987.

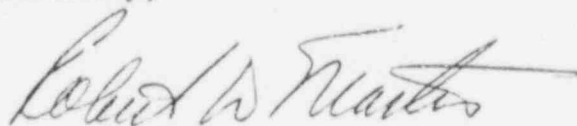
As indicated earlier we are also concerned with the failure to report to the Commission the elevated containment temperatures which were outside the plant design basis as described in the USAR. We understand that your decision for not reporting this condition was based on your conclusion that even though the condition was outside the design basis, the plant was not degraded. In the future, we expect that all conditions outside the design basis will be reported. As stated in the Statements of Consideration for 10 CFR 50.72, if there is doubt about whether or not to report, a report should be made.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. Your response should also address what actions you plan to take to assure matters such as those at issue here are promptly reported. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

The responses directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96-511.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Martin
Regional Administrator

Enclosure:
Notice of Violation and
Proposed Imposition
of Civil Penalty

cc: Arkansas Radiation Control Program Director

MAR 14 1988

Arkansas Power & Light Company

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