

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs, Region IV
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**NRC FINDS PERFORMANCE 'ACCEPTABLE'
AT ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE IN LATEST REVIEW**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has found that safety performance remains acceptable in the NRC's latest plant performance review at Arkansas Nuclear One in Russellville, Arkansas

In a letter to Entergy Operations Vice President C. Randy Hutchinson NRC Branch Chief Charles Marschall described performance by saying, "Overall, the performance of ANO was acceptable. Operators continued to demonstrate conservative operation, focusing on safety and questioning details of plant conditions." Mr. Marschall further noted that, with only minor exceptions, the maintenance of the plant was done with attention to detail and skill. The engineering organization was found to be effectively supporting both operations and maintenance activities. Finally, the implementation of the radiation protection, physical security, and emergency preparedness programs fully supported overall plant operations.

The text of the plant performance review is available from the NRC Region IV Office of Public Affairs and will soon be on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/ppr>. No public meeting will be held to discuss the results of the review because a Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) report was issued within the last 18 months.

NRC reviews safety performance twice a year at every licensed nuclear power plant in the nation. These reviews give the agency staff an integrated assessment of plant performance and provide a basis for planning inspection activities.

Plant performance reviews are an interim measure NRC is utilizing to monitor nuclear power plant safety. The agency began using it for this purpose after suspending the Systematic Assessment of License Performance (SALP) process until a new assessment program is developed. Previously, SALP reports were issued every 12 to 24 months.

The new reactor oversight and assessment program being developed will provide quarterly performance reports, based on a number of performance indicators and on inspection findings. This program will be tested at eight plants beginning in

June and, if found acceptable, will be extended to all plants next January. A full description of the new program is available on the NRC web site at:
<http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/primer.htm>.

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