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[7590-01-P]

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-368; NRC-2026-5215]

Entergy Operations Inc.;

Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2;

License Amendment Application

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Opportunity to comment, request a hearing, and petition for leave to intervene.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC, the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Renewed Facility Operating License No. NPF-6, issued to Entergy Operations, Inc. (Entergy, the licensee), for operation of Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 (ANO-2). The proposed amendment would revise the technical specifications (TSs) for ANO-2, by modifying the note associated with Surveillance Requirement (SR) 4.1.3.1.2 to permit Control Element Assembly (CEA) 29 to be excluded from exercising for the remainder of Cycle 32. This change would allow CEA 29 to remain out of the exercising surveillance until the planned refueling outage 2R32, currently scheduled for September 2027.

DATES: Submit comments by **[INSERT DATE 14 DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**. Request for a hearing or petitions for leave to intervene must be filed by **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods; however, the NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the **Federal rulemaking website**.

- **Federal rulemaking website:** Go to https://www.regulations.gov and search for Docket ID NRC-2026-5215. Address questions about Docket IDs in Regulations.gov to Bridget Curran; telephone: 301-415-1003; email: Bridget.Curran@nrc.gov. For

technical questions, contact the individual listed in the “For Further Information Contact” section of this document.

- **Mail comments to:** Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Mail Stop: TWFN-5-A85, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, ATTN: Guidance and Publications Branch.

For additional direction on obtaining information and submitting comments, see “Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments” in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: M. Elena Herrera, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001; telephone: 301-415-8208; email: Maria.Herrera@nrc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Obtaining Information and Submitting Comments

A. Obtaining Information

Please refer to Docket ID NRC-2026-5215 when contacting the NRC about the availability of information for this action. You may obtain publicly available information related to this action by any of the following methods:

- **Federal Rulemaking Website:** Go to https://www.regulations.gov and search for Docket ID NRC-2026-5215.
- **NRC’s Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS):** You may obtain publicly available documents online in the ADAMS Public Documents collection at https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. To begin the search, select “Begin ADAMS Public Search.” For problems with ADAMS, please contact the NRC’s Public Document Room (PDR) reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, at 301-415-4737, or by email to PDR.Resource@nrc.gov. The license amendment request to exclude exercising CEA 29 from SR 4.1.3.1.2 is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML26260A338, and a supplement to the license amendment request is available in ADAMS under Accession No. ML26281A182.

- **NRC's PDR:** The PDR, where you may examine and order copies of publicly available documents, is open by appointment. To make an appointment to visit the PDR, please send an email to PDR.Resource@nrc.gov or call 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. eastern time (ET), Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

B. Submitting Comments

The NRC encourages electronic comment submission through the **Federal rulemaking website** (https://www.regulations.gov). Please include Docket ID NRC-2026-5215 in your comment submission.

The NRC cautions you not to include identifying or contact information that you do not want to be publicly disclosed in your comment submission. The NRC will post all comment submissions at https://www.regulations.gov as well as enter the comment submissions into ADAMS. The NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove identifying or contact information.

If you are requesting or aggregating comments from other persons for submission to the NRC, then you should inform those persons not to include identifying or contact information that they do not want to be publicly disclosed in their comment submission. Your request should state that the NRC does not routinely edit comment submissions to remove such information before making the comment submissions available to the public or entering the comment into ADAMS.

II. Introduction

The NRC is considering issuance of an amendment to Renewed Facility Operating License No. NPF-6, issued to Entergy, for operation of ANO-2, located in Pope County, Arkansas.

The proposed amendment would revise the technical specifications for ANO-2 by modifying the note associated with SR 4.1.3.1.2 to permit CEA 29 to be excluded from exercising for the remainder of Cycle 32. This change would allow CEA 29 to remain out

of the exercising surveillance until the planned refueling outage 2R32, currently scheduled for September 2027.

Pursuant to the requirements of sections 50.91 and 50.92 of title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), the licensee requested approval of the amendment under exigent circumstances. In its application, the licensee explained that it submitted this application under exigent circumstances due to the need for NRC review and, if pertinent requirements are met, approval of the amendment before the next required surveillance date, scheduled for December 16, 2026, to avoid a required plant shutdown and to prevent an unnecessary transient or reactivity excursion while deferring CEA 29 repair until the planned refueling outage 2R32.

Before any issuance of the proposed license amendment, the NRC will need to make the findings required by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and NRC's regulations.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6), for amendments to be granted under exigent circumstances, the NRC has made a proposed determination that the license amendment request involves no significant hazards consideration (NSHC). Under the NRC's regulations in 10 CFR 50.92, this means that operation of the facility in accordance with the proposed amendment would not (1) involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated; or (2) create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated; or (3) involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of NSHC, which is presented below:

1) Does the proposed amendment involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated?

   Response: No.

   One function of the CEAs is to provide a means of rapid negative reactivity addition into the core. This occurs upon receipt of a signal from the Reactor Protection System (RPS). This function will continue to be accomplished with the approval of the proposed

change. Typically, once per 184 days, each CEA is moved at least five inches to ensure the CEA is free to move. CEA 29 remains trippable (free to move) as illustrated by startup during spring of 2026 and during power restoration following installation of the temporary modification in June 2026. However, due to failure of the pull-down coil, future exercising of the CEA could result in the CEA inadvertently inserting into the core during CEA movement. Undesired operation of a CEA, which includes a CEA drop event, is an abnormal occurrence and has been previously evaluated as part of the ANO-2 accident analysis. Inadvertent CEA insertion will result in a reactivity transient and power reduction and could lead to a reactor shutdown if the CEA is deemed to be unrecoverable. The proposed change would minimize the potential for inadvertent insertion of CEA 29 into the core by maintaining the CEA in place. The proposed change will not affect the CEAs ability to insert fully into the core upon receipt of a reactor trip signal.

No additional modifications are proposed to the RPS or associated Control Element Drive Mechanism Control System (CEDMCS) logic regarding the ability of CEA 29 to remain available for immediate insertion due to a trip signal. The accident mitigation features of the plant are not affected by the proposed amendment. Because CEA 29 remains trippable, no additional reactivity considerations need to be taken into consideration. Nevertheless, Entergy has evaluated the reactivity consequences associated with failure of CEA 29 to insert upon a reactor trip in accordance with TS requirements for Shutdown Margin (SDM) and has determined that SDM requirements would be met should such an event occur at any time during the remainder of Cycle 32 operation.

Therefore, this change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

2) Does the proposed amendment create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated?

Response: No.

CEA 29 remains trippable. The proposed change will not introduce any new design changes or systems that can prevent the CEA from performing its specified safety function. As discussed previously, CEA mis-operation has been previously evaluated in the ANO-2 accident analysis. Furthermore, SDM has been shown to remain within limits should an event occur at any time during the remainder of operating Cycle 32 such that CEA 29 fails to insert into the core upon receipt of a reactor trip signal. Therefore, this change does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from an accident previously evaluated.

3) Does the proposed amendment involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety?

Response: No.

> SR 4.1.3.1.2 is intended to verify CEAs are free to move (i.e., not mechanically bound). The physical and electrical design of the CEAs, and past operating experience provides high confidence that CEAs remain trippable whether or not exercised during each SR interval. Excluding further exercising of CEA 29 for the remainder of Cycle 32 operation does not directly relate to the potential for CEA binding to occur. No mechanical binding has been previously experienced at ANO-2. In addition, Entergy has concluded that required SDM will be maintained should CEA 29 fail to insert following a reactor trip at any point during the remainder of Cycle 32 operation.

Therefore, this change does not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed the licensee's analysis and, based on this review, it appears that the three standards of 10 CFR 50.92(c) are satisfied. Therefore, the NRC staff proposes to determine that the license amendment request involves a NSHC.

In accordance with 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6), where the Commission finds that exigent circumstances exist, in that a licensee and the Commission must act quickly and that time does not permit the Commission to publish a *Federal Register* notice allowing 30 days for prior public comment, and it also determines that the amendment involves NSHCs, it can issue a *Federal Register* notice providing notice of an opportunity for hearing and allowing at least two weeks from the date of the notice for prior public comment. Therefore, in accordance with 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6)(i)(A), the NRC staff is providing a 14-day notice period for public comment.

The NRC is seeking public comments on this proposed determination that the license amendment request involves NSHC. Any comments received within 14 days after the date of publication of this notice will be considered in making any final determination.

Normally, the Commission will not issue the amendment until the expiration of the 14-day notice period. However, if circumstances change during the notice period, such that failure to act in a timely way would result, for example, in derating or shutdown of the facility, the Commission may issue the license amendment before the expiration of the notice period, provided that its final determination is that the amendment involves

NSHC. The final determination will consider all public and State comments received. The Commission expects that the need to take this action will occur very infrequently.

III. Opportunity to Request a Hearing and Petition for Leave to Intervene

Within 60 days after the date of publication of this notice, any person (petitioner) whose interest may be affected by this action may file a request for a hearing and petition for leave to intervene (petition) with respect to the action. Petitions shall be filed in accordance with the Commission's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure" in 10 CFR part 2. Interested persons should consult 10 CFR 2.309. If a petition is filed, the Commission or a presiding officer will rule on the petition and, if appropriate, a notice of a hearing will be issued.

Petitions must be filed no later than 60 days from the date of publication of this notice in accordance with the filing instructions in the "Electronic Submissions (E-Filing)" section of this document. Petitions and motions for leave to file new or amended contentions that are filed after the deadline will not be entertained absent a determination by the presiding officer that the filing demonstrates good cause by satisfying the three factors in 10 CFR 2.309(c)(1)(i) through (iii).

If a hearing is requested, and the Commission has not made a final determination on the issue of NSHC, the Commission will make a final determination on the issue of NSHC, which will serve to establish when the hearing is held. If the final determination is that the license amendment request involves NSHC, the Commission may issue the amendment and make it immediately effective, notwithstanding the request for a hearing. Any hearing would take place after issuance of the amendment. If the final determination is that the license amendment request involves a significant hazards consideration, then any hearing held would take place before the issuance of the amendment unless the Commission finds an imminent danger to the health or safety of the public, in which case it will issue an appropriate order or rule under 10 CFR part 2.

A State, local governmental body, Federally recognized Indian Tribe, or designated agency thereof, may submit a petition to the Commission to participate as a

party under 10 CFR 2.309(h) no later than 60 days from the date of publication of this notice. Alternatively, a State, local governmental body, Federally recognized Indian Tribe, or designated agency thereof, may participate as a non-party under 10 CFR 2.315(c).

For information about filing a petition and about participation by a person not a party under 10 CFR 2.315, see ADAMS Accession No. ML20340A053 (https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20340A053) and the NRC's public website (https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/adjudicatory/hearing.html#participate).

IV. Electronic Submissions (E-Filing)

All documents filed in NRC adjudicatory proceedings, including documents filed by an interested State, local governmental body, Federally recognized Indian Tribe, or designated agency thereof that requests to participate under 10 CFR 2.315(c), must be filed in accordance with 10 CFR 2.302. The E-Filing process requires participants to submit and serve all adjudicatory documents over the internet, or in some cases, to mail copies on electronic storage media, unless an exemption permitting an alternative filing method, as further discussed, is granted. Detailed guidance on electronic submissions is located in the "Guidance for Electronic Submissions to the NRC" (ADAMS Accession No. ML13031A056), and on the NRC's public website (https://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html).

To comply with the procedural requirements of E-Filing, at least 10 days prior to the filing deadline, the participant should contact the Office of the Secretary by email at Hearing.Docket@nrc.gov, or by telephone at 301-415-1677, to: (1) request a digital identification (ID) certificate, which allows the participant (or their counsel or representative) to digitally sign submissions and access the E-Filing system for any proceeding in which it is participating; and (2) advise the Secretary that the participant will be submitting a petition or other adjudicatory document (even in instances in which the participant, or their counsel or representative, already holds an NRC-issued digital ID

certificate). Based upon this information, the Secretary will establish an electronic docket for the proceeding if the Secretary has not already established an electronic docket.

Information about applying for a digital ID certificate is available on the NRC's public website (https://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals/getting-started.html). After a digital ID certificate is obtained and a docket is created, the participant must submit adjudicatory documents in the Portable Document Format. Guidance on submissions is available on the NRC's public website (https://www.nrc.gov/site-help/electronic-sub-ref-mat.html). A filing is considered complete at the time the document is submitted through the NRC's E-Filing system. To be timely, an electronic filing must be submitted to the E-Filing system no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on the due date. Upon receipt of a transmission, the E-Filing system time-stamps the document and sends the submitter an email confirming receipt of the document. The E-Filing system also distributes an email that provides access to the document to the NRC's Office of the General Counsel and any others who have advised the Office of the Secretary that they wish to participate in the proceeding, so that the filer need not serve the document on those participants separately. Therefore, applicants and other participants (or their counsel or representative) must apply for and receive a digital ID certificate before adjudicatory documents are filed in order to obtain access to the documents via the E-Filing system.

A person filing electronically using the NRC's adjudicatory E-Filing system may seek assistance by contacting the NRC's Electronic Filing Help Desk through the "Contact Us" link located on the NRC's public website (https://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html), by email to MSHD.Resource@nrc.gov, or by a toll-free call at 1-866-672-7640. The NRC Electronic Filing Help Desk is available between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Participants who believe that they have good cause for not submitting documents electronically must file an exemption request, in accordance with 10 CFR 2.302(g), with their initial paper filing stating why there is good cause for not filing electronically and requesting authorization to continue to submit documents in paper format. Such filings

must be submitted in accordance with 10 CFR 2.302(b)-(d). Participants filing adjudicatory documents in this manner are responsible for serving their documents on all other participants. Participants granted an exemption under 10 CFR 2.302(g)(2) must still meet the electronic formatting requirement in 10 CFR 2.302(g)(1), unless the participant also seeks and is granted an exemption from 10 CFR 2.302(g)(1).

Documents submitted in adjudicatory proceedings will appear in the NRC's electronic hearing docket, which is publicly available on the NRC's public website (https://ehd.nrc.gov), unless otherwise excluded pursuant to an order of the presiding officer. If you do not have an NRC-issued digital ID certificate as previously described, click "cancel" when the link requests certificates and you will be automatically directed to the NRC's electronic hearing docket where you will be able to access any publicly available documents in a particular hearing docket. Participants are requested not to include personal privacy information such as social security numbers, home addresses, or personal phone numbers in their filings, unless an NRC regulation or other law requires submission of such information. With respect to copyrighted works, except for limited excerpts that serve the purpose of the adjudicatory filings and would constitute a Fair Use application, participants should not include copyrighted materials in their submission.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for license amendment dated September 17, 2026, as supplemented by letter dated October 8, 2026 (ADAMS Accession Nos. ML26260A338 and ML26281A182, respectively).

Attorney for licensee: Susan Raimo, Associate General Counsel, Nuclear, 101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

NRC Branch Chief: Hipólito González

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 2011 *et seq*.

Dated: November 4, 2026.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Maria Herrera Torres, Project Manager,
Operating Reactor Licensing Branch 4,
Division of Licensing 1,
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.
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