

June 6, 2000

Mr. Jim Wood  
Route 3 Box 1278  
Dardanelle, AR 72834

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am responding to your letter dated April 5, 2000, which discussed your concerns regarding the ability of the roads in your community to support an evacuation. Your letter was sent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in response to our request for comments related to the environmental review of Arkansas Nuclear One (ANO), Unit 1 that was announced in the "Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Conduct Scoping Process," (65 FR 13061, March 10, 2000). The purpose of this notice and solicitation of public comments was to invite public participation in the identification of significant environmental issues resulting from the proposed extension of the ANO, Unit 1 operating license.

The NRC has previously determined that emergency planning is an existing program required for all licensees and is periodically evaluated. As such, emergency planning is not included within the review scope for license renewal. However, the NRC has reviewed your concerns and determined that it would be appropriate to address this issue under the current reactor oversight process. The concerns raised in your letter are current and affect both ANO, Units 1 and 2. If your concerns are substantiated, handling this issue under the current reactor oversight process will allow corrective actions to be taken for both units without unnecessary delay.

The NRC and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are the two federal agencies responsible for evaluating emergency preparedness at and around nuclear power plants. The NRC is responsible for assessing the adequacy of onsite emergency plans developed by the utility, while FEMA is responsible for assessing the adequacy of State and local government offsite emergency planning. The assessment of evacuation routes around ANO is within the responsibilities of FEMA. Accordingly, we have referred your concerns to FEMA. Once FEMA completes their review and informs us of the results, we will forward that information to you.

We appreciate your willingness to bring your concerns to our attention. If you have any questions regarding the actions taken in response to your concerns, please feel free to call me direct at 301-415-1320 or toll free at 1-800-368-5642.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

M. Christopher Nolan, Project Manager, Section 1  
Project Directorate IV & Decommissioning  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-313 and 50-368

cc: See next page

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February 2000