

August 26, 1988

Docket Nos. 50-313/368

Mr. T. Gene Campbell
Vice President - Nuclear Operations
Arkansas Power and Light Company
Post Office Box 551
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Dear Mr. Campbell:

SUBJECT: EXEMPTION FROM 10 CFR 50.71(e) FOR ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE,
UNITS 1 AND 2 (ANO-1 AND ANO-2) (TAC NOS. 68301 AND 68302)

By letter dated May 13, 1988 as supplemented July 19, 1988, the licensee requested a one-time 90-day exemption from the ANO-1 and ANO-2 Final Safety Analysis Report annual revision due date of July 22 required by 10 CFR 50.71(e).

The staff has reviewed the exemption request, and concluded that special circumstances, as required by 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2), exist to justify granting the exemption. Therefore, the exemption request as discussed in the enclosed Exemption is granted. The new due date is October 20, 1988. Our Safety Evaluation is also enclosed.

A copy of the "Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" was sent to you by our letter dated July 26, 1988, and published in the Federal Register on August 4, 1988 (53 FR 29398).

A copy of the Exemption is being filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Please note that pursuant to 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) your October 20, 1988 revisions should include all changes to your facilities completed a maximum of six months prior to filing; in this case that means completed on or before April 20, 1988. Also, as stated in your letter of May 13, 1988, your annual filing date for FSAR updates remains as before, July 22.

Sincerely,

/s/

C. Craig Harbuck, Project Manager
Project Directorate - IV
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/enclosures:
See next page
DISTRIBUTION

Docket File	NRC PDR	Local PDR	PD4 Reading	ACRS (10)
T. Murley/J. Sniezek	F. Miraglia	C. Rossi	D. Crutchfield	L. Rubenstein
J. Calvo	P. Noonan	C. Harbuck	OGC-Rockville	E. Jordan
B. Grimes	GPA/PA	Secy (Orders only)	ARM/LFMB	PD4 Plant File
T. Barnhart (4 cys for each Docket No.)				

PDIV:LA
PNoonan
08/10/88

PDIV:PM
CHarbuck:kb
08/11/88

PDIV:D
JCalvo
08/11/88

No legal objection
assuming all of the
assurances offered are
made.
S. H. Lewis
08/19/88

OGC
LRubenstein
08/25/88

DCrutchfield
08/26/88

DF01
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PDR ADDCK 05000313
PDC



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

August 26, 1988

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Harbuck".

C. Craig Harbuck, Project Manager
Project Directorate - IV
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:
As stated

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See next page

Mr. T. Gene Campbell
Arkansas Power & Light Company

Arkansas Nuclear One
Unit Nos. 1 and 2

cc:

Mr. Dan R. Howard, Manager
Licensing
Arkansas Nuclear One
P. O. Box 608
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

Mr. Charles B. Brinkman, Manager
Washington Nuclear Operations
C-E Power Systems
7910 Woodmont Avenue
Suite 1310
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Mr. James M. Levine, Executive Director
Site Nuclear Operations
Arkansas Nuclear One
P. O. Box 608
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

Mr. Frank Wilson, Director
Division of Environmental Health
Protection
Department of Health
Arkansas Department of Health
4815 West Markham Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Nicholas S. Reynolds, Esq.
Bishop, Liberman, Cook,
Purcell & Reynolds
1200 Seventeenth Street, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036

Honorable William Abernathy
County Judge of Pope County
Pope County Courthouse
Russelville, Arkansas 72801

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Executive Director for
Operations
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1 Nuclear Plant Road
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

Ms. Greta Dicus, Director
Division of Environmental Health
Protection
Arkansas Department of Health
4815 West Markam Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Mr. Robert B. Borsum
Babcock & Wilcox
Nuclear Power Generation Division
Suite 220
1700 Rockville Pike, Suite 525
Rockville, Maryland 20852

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the matter of)	
ARKANSAS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY)	Docket Nos. 50-313
(Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2))	and 50-368

EXEMPTION

I

Arkansas Power & Light Company (AP&L or the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-51 and NPF-6 which authorize the operation of Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2 (the facilities) at steady state power levels not in excess of 2568 and 2815 megawatts thermal respectively. The licenses provide, among other things, that the facilities are subject to all rules, regulations, and Orders of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) now or hereafter in effect. The facilities are pressurized water reactors (PWRs) located at the licensee's site in Pope County, Arkansas.

II

10 CFR 50.71, "Maintenance of records, making of reports," sets forth the requirements for recordkeeping and reporting in connection with licensed activities. Paragraph (e) of this section sets forth specific requirements for the filing of annual revisions to the Final Safety Analysis (FSARs).

By letter dated May 13, 1988 as supplemented July 19, 1988, AP&L requested an exemption from the schedular requirement of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4). The specific

III

exemption requested was a one-time 90-day extension of the filing date for the year 1988 annual FSAR revisions for the facilities. The date of the last previous FSAR revisions for the facilities was July 22, 1987. Therefore, the licensee requests that the annual filing date be moved, this one time, from July 22 to October 20, 1988. It should be noted that the staff is requiring that this delayed revision reflect all changes to the facilities through April 20, 1988, and that all future revision filing dates shall be July 22.

The staff's principal concern was that a delay in revising the FSAR could lessen the FSARs' effectiveness in support of safety-related activities by AP&L. However, the need for the filing date extension was to allow completion of the licensee-initiated Safety Analysis Report (SAR) Upgrade Project, which was delayed by the sixth refueling outage on Unit 2. The grant of this exemption would allow the benefits derived from the SAR Upgrade Project to be incorporated into the 1988 annual FSAR revision. This SAR Upgrade Project goes beyond the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e) in regard to what must be included in the annual FSAR revisions. Begun in April of 1987, it has included a chapter-by-chapter detailed technical review of the entire FSARs for both facilities. The SAR Upgrade Project should result in a better defined and more comprehensive licensing basis, which will greatly enhance the effectiveness of the FSARs in support of safety-related activities. Therefore, the staff concludes that the granting of the 90-day filing date extension will not result in an adverse impact on public health and safety, and should improve the quality of safety related activities of AP&L because of the significant improvements to be made in the quality of the FSARs.

The special circumstances of 10 CFR 50.12 apply in that the exemption would result in benefit to the public health and safety that compensates for any decrease in safety that may result from the granting of the exemption. In this case, no decrease in safety is expected and a benefit to the health and safety of the public through improved quality in the conduct of safety-related activities by AP&L, should be realized.

IV

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, this exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. The Commission has further determined that special circumstances, as set forth in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(iv), are present justifying the exemption, namely that the exemption would result in benefit to the public health and safety that compensates for any decrease in safety that may result from the grant of the exemption.

Accordingly, the Commission hereby grants the exemption from the schedular requirement of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) as described in Section III above.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32 the Commission has determined that the granting of this Exemption will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment (53 FR 29398).

The Safety Evaluation concurrently issued and related to this action and the licensee's May 13 and July 19, 1988 submittals are available for public

inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the local public document room located at the Tomlinson Library, Arkansas Technical University, Russellville, Arkansas 72801.

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Dennis M. Crutchfield, Director
Division of Reactor Projects - III, IV,
V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Rockville, Maryland
this 26th day of August 1988.



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

EVALUATION OF SCHEDULAR EXEMPTION FOR

FILING OF THE ANNUAL REVISIONS

TO THE FINAL SAFETY ANALYSIS REPORTS

FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NOS. DPR-51 AND NPF-6

ARKANSAS POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNITS 1 AND 2

DOCKET NOS. 50-313 AND 50-368

1.0 INTRODUCTION

By letter dated May 13, 1988, Arkansas Power & Light (AP&L or the licensee) requested a one-time exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(e) to extend the annual Final Safety Analysis Report revision filing date for Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2 (ANO-1 and 2) from July 22 to October 20, 1988. The filing date extension was requested because the licensee-initiated Safety Analysis Report (SAR) Upgrade Project, begun in April 1987, was not able to be completed in time to meet the July 22, 1988 due date requirement for the annual FSAR update, as originally intended, because of resources expended during the sixth refueling outage in Unit 2. The SAR Upgrade Project has involved a chapter-by-chapter detailed technical review of the SARs by numerous key plant personnel and contractors from all relevant disciplines. Its goal is to assure consistency between the SAR text and the as built plant configuration and design resulting in a better defined and more comprehensive licensing basis. This in turn should provide better support for, and thus enhance, the quality of safety related activities associated with the operation of ANO-1 and 2.

2.0 EVALUATION

A 90-day delay in submission of the annual FSAR updates will not adversely affect public health and safety. In light of the expected improvements from the SAR Upgrade Project in the quality of safety-related activities associated with the operation of ANO-1 and 2, a net benefit to the public health and safety should be realized. Therefore, the exemption should be granted.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The NRC staff has previously concluded, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, that the issuance of these exemptions will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment (53 FR 29398, August 4, 1988).

4.0 CONCLUSION

We have concluded that the proposed exemptions would result in benefit to the public health and safety that compensates for any decrease in safety that may result from the grant of the exemptions. Therefore, a special circumstance exists pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(iv) supporting the grant of this exemption.

Principle Contributor: C. Harbuck

Dated: August 26, 1988