

January 31, 1991

Docket No. 50-313

Mr. Neil S. Carns  
Vice President, Operations AND  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
Route 3 Box 137G  
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

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Dear Mr. Carns:

SUBJECT: EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10 CFR 55.59(a) and (c)  
ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT 1 (ANO-1) (TAC NO. 79002)

By letter dated November 2, 1990, Entergy Operations, Inc. requested an exemption from the requalification program requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(a) and (c) to allow a three-month extension in 1991 from the annual and biennial requalification program requirements to align the ANO-1 requalification program with the National Examination Schedule set out in Generic Letter 89-03.

Currently, the requalification examination for ANO-1 is required to be given by May 1991. This requested exemption would allow the extension of the requalification period from May to August 1991 and would result in a permanent adjustment to the 24-month requalification cycle and the annual requalification examination schedule.

The Commission has granted this exemption pursuant to 10 CFR Part 55.11. A copy of the exemption is enclosed and is being filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

A Notice of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was published in the Federal Register on January 28, 1991 (56 FR 3120).

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Thomas W. Alexion, Project Manager  
Project Directorate IV-1  
Division of Reactor Projects III, IV, and V  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Enclosure:  
Exemption

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

January 31, 1991

Docket No. 50-313

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Vice President, Operations ANO  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
Route 3 Box 137G  
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas W. Alexion".

Thomas W. Alexion, Project Manager  
Project Directorate IV-1  
Division of Reactor Projects III, IV, and V  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
Exemption

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

Mr. Neil S. Carns  
Entergy Operations, Inc.

Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1

cc:

Mr. Donald C. Hintz  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Operating Officer  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
P. O. Box 31995  
Jackson, Mississippi 39286

Mr. Jerry Yelverton  
Director Nuclear Operations  
Arkansas Nuclear One  
Route 3 Box 137G  
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

Mr. Nicholas S. Reynolds  
Winston & Strawn  
1400 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3502

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

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

Honorable Joe W. Phillips  
County Judge of Pope County  
Pope County Courthouse  
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. Gerald Muench  
Vice President Operations Support  
Entergy Operations, Inc.  
P. O. Box 31995  
Jackson, Mississippi 39286

Mr. Robert B. McGehee  
Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway  
P. O. Box 651  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Mr. Tom W. Nickels  
Arkansas Nuclear One  
Route 3, Box 137G  
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

Admiral Kinnaird R. McKee, USN (Ret)  
Post Office Box 41  
Oxford, Maryland 21654

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the matter of

ENTERGY OPERATIONS, INC.

Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1

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Docket No. 50-313

EXEMPTION

I.

Entergy Operations, Inc. (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. DPR-51, which authorizes operation of the Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit No. 1 (ANO-1). The license provides, among other things, that the licensee is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

The facility consists of a pressurized water reactor at the licensee's site located in Pope County, Arkansas.

II.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.59(a), "Each licensee shall - (1) Successfully complete a requalification program developed by the facility licensee that has been approved by the Commission. This program shall be conducted for a continuous period not to exceed 24 months in duration. (2) Pass a comprehensive requalification written examination and an annual operating test." Also, pursuant to 10 CFR 55.59(c)(1), "The requalification program must be conducted for a continuous period not to exceed two years, and upon conclusion must be promptly followed, pursuant to a continuous schedule, by successive requalification programs."

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III.

By letter dated November 2, 1990, the licensee requested an exemption under 10 CFR 55.11 from the annual and biennial schedule requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(a) and (c). The licensee is requesting a three-month extension in 1991 to align the ANO-1 requalification program with the National Examination Schedule. This one-time exemption will result in a permanent adjustment to the 24-month requalification cycle and the annual requalification examination schedule.

Generic Letter 89-03 established the National Examination Schedule and allotted examination months of February and August to ANO-1. The current ANO-1 requalification cycle ends in May 1991. The licensee stated that scheduling the examinations in February 1991 is causing hardships due to the compression of the training cycle which would be required, and due to the proximity of the ANO-1 and ANO-2 refueling outages. Also, the exemption is necessary to avoid operators' duplicative effort because of the misaligned schedules between the NRC and licensee administered requalification examinations.

Compliance with the regulations would create the hardships discussed above. Granting the exemption would allow a one-time, three-month extension to the annual and biennial schedule requirements, and it would alleviate the hardships discussed above. Also, the licensee has committed to continue to provide training to the operators during the months from May to August 1991.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 55.11, "The Commission may, upon application by an interested person, or upon its own initiative, grant such exemptions from the requirements of the regulations in this part as it determines are authorized by law and will not endanger life or property and are otherwise in the public interest."

IV.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined, pursuant to 10 CFR 55.11, that the exemption as described in Section III is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Entergy Operations, Inc. an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR 55.59(a) and (c) for the period of three-months.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.21, 51.32, and 51.35, the Commission determined that the granting of this exemption will not result in any significant environmental impact (56 FR 3120).

For further details with respect to this action, see the licensee's request dated November 2, 1990, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, D.C. and at the Tomlinson Library, Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, Arkansas 72801.

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Bruce A. Boger, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects III, IV, and V  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Rockville, Maryland  
this 31st day of January 1991.