

January 27, 1995

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

SUBJECT: ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT NO. 1, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RELATED TO INTEGRATED LEAK RATE TEST EXEMPTION (TAC NO. M90739)

Dear Mr. Yelverton:

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact related to your application for exemption dated November 8, 1994. The proposed exemption would provide a one-time interval extension for performance of the next containment integrated leak rate test (ILRT).

The assessment is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

George Kalman, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-313

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Kalman".

George Kalman, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. Jerry W. Yelverton
Entergy Operations, Inc.

Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1

cc:

Mr. Harry W. Keiser, Executive Vice
President & Chief Operating Officer
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 31995
Jackson, Mississippi 39286

Mr. Jerrold G. Dewease
Vice President, Operations Support
Entergy Operations, Inc.
P. O. Box 31995
Jackson, Mississippi 39286

Mr. Charles B. Brinkman, Manager
Washington Nuclear Operations
ABB Combustion Engineering
Nuclear Power
12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 330
Rockville, Maryland 20852

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

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

Admiral Kinnaird R. McKee, USN (Ret)
214 South Morris Street
Oxford, Maryland 21654

Mr. Robert B. Borsum
Licensing Representative
B&W Nuclear Technologies
1700 Rockville Pike, Suite 525
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P. O. Box 310
London, Arkansas 72847

Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

Honorable C. Doug Lunningham
County Judge of Pope County
Pope County Courthouse
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

Ms. Greta Dicus, Director
Division of Radiation Control
and Emergency Management
Arkansas Department of Health
4815 West Markham Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONENERGY OPERATIONS, INC.DOCKET NO. 50-313ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT NO. 1ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from Facility Operating License No. DPR-51, issued to Entergy Operations, Inc., (the licensee), for operation of the Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit No. 1 (ANO-1), located in Pope County, Arkansas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

Section III.D.1(a) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 addresses requirements for periodic containment building integrated leakage rate tests (ILRTs). The tests measure the ability of the containment building to isolate the containment building atmosphere from the environment. The containment building is designed to prevent radioactive releases to the environment from the reactor and radioactive systems located inside the containment.

Appendix J requires ILRTs to be performed at approximately equal intervals during each 10-year service period. The third test of each set must be conducted when the plant is shutdown for the 10-year plant inservice inspections. In order to schedule the next ILRT (the third ILRT of this service period) such that it coincides with the 10-year inservice inspections, the licensee has requested a one-time exemption from the

Appendix J requirements. The exemption would extend the 10-year service period by one refueling outage to permit the licensee to perform the next ILRT together with the 10-year inservice inspections that are scheduled during the thirteenth refueling outage in 1996.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for exemption dated November 8, 1994.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

If performed during the thirteenth refueling outage, the third ILRT will not be completed until after the end of the current 10-year service period. To comply with regulations as written, an ILRT would be required during the twelfth refueling outage in 1995 to satisfy the requirement for three ILRT's during the 10-year service period and another ILRT would be required during the thirteenth refueling outage in 1996 to satisfy the requirement for the third ILRT to be performed when the plant is shutdown for the 10-year inservice inspections. Without the requested exemption and related technical specification changes, the licensee would be required to perform ILRT's during both the twelfth and thirteenth refueling outages. A requirement to perform ILRT'S during two consecutive refuelings is clearly beyond the intent of the regulations and given the satisfactory results of previous tests at ANO-1, there is little, if anything, to gain from two closely spaced tests.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that granting of the one-time relief does not impact the environment. Six previous ILRT's performed at approximately three year intervals have not identified containment leakage concerns. An interval

extension of one refueling outage (approximately 18 months) between the sixth and seventh ILRT is not likely to result in unidentified containment leakage during plant operations. There is minimal concern that the ILRT interval extension would increase the release of radioactive materials during normal operations or after an accident.

The change will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released offsite, and there is no significant increase in the allowable individual or cumulative occupational radiation exposure. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed action does involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed action, any alternatives with equal or greater environmental impact need not be evaluated. The principal alternative to the action would be to deny the request. Such action would not significantly reduce the environmental impact of plant operation and would result in lost electrical generation capacity and other expenses to the licensee.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit No. 1.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

In accordance with its stated policy, the staff consulted with the State of Arkansas regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The State official had no comments.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated November 8, 1994, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Tomlinson Library, Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, Arkansas 72801.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 27th day of January 1995.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



George Kalman, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation