

October 30, 1988

Docket No. 50-313

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

Dear Mr. Campbell:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT -
CHANGES TO THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS REGARDING THE CYCLE 9 CORE
RELOAD AND VARIABLE LOW PRESSURE TRIP SETPOINT (TAC NO. 69056)

Enclosed is a copy of the Environmental Assessment which relates to your applications for changes to the Technical Specifications for Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1. The application dated July 20, 1988, requested approval for changes that reflect the Cycle 9 core reload, and the application dated August 31, 1988, requested approval of a change in the variable low pressure trip setpoint.

This assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

G. Dick for

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

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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

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C. Craig Harbuck, Project Manager
Project Directorate - IV
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Enclosure:
As stated

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See next page

Mr. T. Gene Campbell
Arkansas Power & Light Company

Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1

cc:

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Honorable William Abernathy
County Judge of Pope County
Pope County Courthouse
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONARKANSAS POWER & LIGHT COMPANYARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT 1DOCKET NO. 50-313ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OFNO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Operating License No. DPR-51 issued to Arkansas Power & Light Company (AP&L or the licensee) for operation of the Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1 (ANO-1) located in Pope County, Arkansas.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of the Proposed Action:

The proposed amendment would change the plant Technical Specifications (TSs) to reflect the Cycle 9 core reload and to change the variable low pressure trip setpoint. The affected TS Sections are as follows: Section 2.1, Safety Limits, Reactor Core; Section 2.3, Limiting Safety System Settings, Protective Instrumentation; Section 3.5.2, Control Rod Group and Power Distribution Limits; and Section 5.3, Reactor Design Features.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's applications for amendment dated July 20 and August 31, 1988.

Need for the Proposed Action:

The proposed TS changes are needed to support the loading of 60 fresh fuel assemblies (FAs) and 52 burnable poison rod assemblies (BPRAs), the shuffling of 116 FAs, the reinsertion of one previously used FA, and the replacement of 8 black axial power shaping rods (APSRs) with grey APSRs. The core locations of the 68 control rod assemblies (CRAs) are the same as those of

the previous cycle, but the group designations are different. In addition other TS changes proposed would permit revised quadrant tilt limits, and a less restrictive variable low pressure trip setpoint.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The Commission has evaluated the environmental impact of the proposed amendment and has determined that neither the probability of accidents nor the post-accident radiological plant releases would be greater than previously determined. The proposed amendment does not otherwise affect radiological plant effluents during normal operation. In addition, the proposed amendment does not have any influence upon occupational radiation exposure. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with this proposed amendment.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed TS changes involve features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. They would not affect non-radiological plant effluents and would have no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

The Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License and Opportunity for Hearing regarding the proposed changes to the TSSs, was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER on September 16, 1988 (53 FR 36141). No request for hearing or petition for leave to intervene was filed following this notice.

Alternative to the Proposed Action:

Since the Commission has concluded that the environmental effects of the proposed action are not significant, any alternative with equal or greater environmental impacts need not be evaluated.

The principal alternative would be to deny the requested amendment. This would not reduce the environmental impacts attributable to this facility and would only result in requiring a revised core reload design to operate within the present TS requirements.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action does not involve the use of any resources beyond the scope of resources used during normal plant operation.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The Commission's staff reviewed the licensee's safety analysis and changes to the TSs that support the proposed amendment. The staff did not consult other agencies or persons.

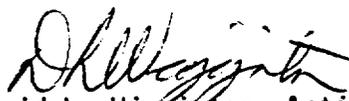
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concluded 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 license amendment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the applications for license amendments dated July 20 and August 31, 1988 which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 2120 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555, and at the local public document room located at the Tomlinson Library, Arkansas Tech University, Russellville, Arkansas 72801.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 31st day of October 1988.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



David L. Wigginton, Acting Director
Project Directorate - IV
Division of Reactor Projects - III,
IV, V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation