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

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 19 TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE NO. DPR-51

ARKANSAS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE - UNIT 1

DOCKET NO. 50-313

Introduction

By letter dated October 6, 1976, the Arkansas Power & Light Company (AP&L) submitted an application for a license amendment to delete the surveillance requirements for the Boric Acid Mix Tank (BAMT) temperature and level channels.

Discussion and Evaluation

Present Technical Specification 4.1, OPERATIONAL SAFETY ITEMS, specifies the "minimum frequency and type of surveillance to be applied to unit equipment and conditions," and applies to "items directly related to safety limits and limiting conditions for operation." Surveillance of level and temperature of the BAMT is presently included in this specification, with requirements delineated in Table 4.1-1. However, this tank is not required to fulfill any safety function. The boric acid addition tank, borated water storage tank (BWST), and two core flooding tanks provide boric acid for injection if required during accident conditions. Operating level and concentration of contents in the boric acid addition tank are prescribed by the technical specification 3.2. Technical Specification 3.3 delineates level and concentration requirements for the BWST and core flooding tanks. There are no such limits for the BAMT, nor are any necessary.

The BAMT is utilized for batch mixing of boric acid, with an operator in attendance. Therefore level instrumentation is not essential. The tank is equipped with an agitator for mixing and electric heaters to assure solubility of the boric acid. However, even if the temperature was not maintained at a level high enough to maintain solubility, the resulting crystallization would not affect the remainder of the chemical addition system.

Because the level and temperature instrumentation on the BAMT serve no safety function and because the tank is not required to function during accident conditions, the proposed deletion of these surveillance requirements is acceptable.

Environmental Consideration

We have determined that the amendment does not authorize a change in effluent types or total amounts nor an increase in power level and will not result in any significant environmental impact. Having made this determination, we have further concluded that the amendment involves an action which is insignificant from the standpoint of environmental impact and pursuant to 10 CFR §51.5(d)(4) that an environmental impact statement or negative declaration and environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

Conclusions

We have concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that: (1) because the amendment does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously considered and does not involve a significant increase in a safety margin, the amendment does not involve a significant hazards consideration, (2) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (3) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and the issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Date: February 18, 1977