

ocket No. 50-313

Arkansas Power & Light Company
ATTN: Mr. J. D. Phillips
Senior Vice President
Production, Transmission and
Engineering
Sixth and Pine Streets
Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

APR 4 1977

Gentlemen:

By letter dated August 17, 1976, you requested an exemption from the provisions of Appendix H to Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 50 (10 CFR 50) which would permit future operation of Arkansas Nuclear One Unit No. 1 (ANO-1) while irradiating the remaining portion of the reactor vessel surveillance specimens at Davis-Besse Unit No. 1. By the same letter, you requested approval of proposed changes to the ANO-1 Technical Specifications consistent with the requested exemption. Some revisions to the proposed modified Technical Specifications were included in your letters of December 20 and 22, 1976, and January 13, 1977.

Irradiating the remaining ANO-1 surveillance specimens at Davis-Besse Unit No. 1 will cause the ANO-1 program to be out of conformance with the provision of Appendix H which requires the irradiation program to be performed within the ANO-1 vessel. However, as noted in the enclosed Safety Evaluation, the nominal dimensions of the ANO-1 reactor vessel and internals are identical to those at Davis-Besse Unit No. 1, and the operating conditions at these two reactors are very similar so that with the exception of actual operating history and minor differences in power distribution, for which adjustments can be provided, the technical aspects of the material surveillance program will be achieved to the satisfaction of the NRC staff.

Based on these considerations, we have concluded that an exemption for ANO-1 from this requirement for a continuing in-vessel material surveillance program as set forth in Appendix H to 10 CFR Part 50 for a period of five years will not be detrimental to life or property or the common defense and security and is in the public interest. Therefore, the exemption requested in your letter of August 17, 1976, is approved for a period of five years from the date of this letter.

If an extension of this exemption beyond this initial five year term is desired, you should submit an application for extension to the Commission no later than six months prior to expiration of the exemption. This application should provide a justification for extending the term of the exemption based on operating experience.

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In addition to granting this exemption, the Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. to Facility Operating License No. DPR-51 for ANO-1. This amendment provides for performance of the ANO-1 reactor vessel material surveillance program at Davis-Besse Unit No. 1 and for the submission of specified reports. Certain changes were required in the proposed Technical Specifications submitted by your staff relative to this program. These have been discussed with and agreed to by your staff.

Copies of our related Safety Evaluation and the Notice of Issuance are also enclosed.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by
V. Stello

Victor Stello, Jr., Director
Division of Operating Reactors
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. to License No. DPR-51
2. SER Report
3. Notice of Issuance

cc w/enclosures:
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AS 4/1/77

cc w/enclosures:
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ATTN: EIS COORDINATOR
1201 Elm Street
First International Building
Dallas, Texas 75270

Honorable Ermil Grant
Acting County Judge of Pope County
Pope County Courthouse
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

cc w/enclosures and copy of AP&L
filings dtd. 8/17/76, 12/20/76,
12/22/76 and 1/13/77:
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