

AUG 2 1974

Docket No. 50-313

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

Gentlemen:

In your letter to A. Giambusso of May 20, 1974, you made commitment to complete a number of outstanding construction and test items prior to proceeding to initial criticality with Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1. Among these, item 12k of the reference letter, was the commitment to resolve all test deficiencies with the Reactor Building Hydrogen Removal System. We are aware that in subsequent test of this system, one of the hydrogen purge filter assemblies was inadvertently flooded with water requiring requalification or replacement of the filter. Members of your staff have informed us that, with the highest action priority, requalification of the filter or replacement of it is not achievable before mid-August. In the meanwhile, the plant stands with one purge filter train fully operable and the other train, now dried out and functioning, but not qualified as operable to remove fission products with design efficiency.

Since the plant is now ready to proceed to initial criticality, lack of qualifications of this filter assembly constitutes a constraint of several weeks on plant operation if you are to honor your May 20 commitment. We have considered this matter and have concluded that it is acceptable for you to proceed to initial criticality now provided that (1) the qualified hydrogen purge filter train remains operable, and (2) the purge capability of the now unqualified train is not obstructed except for retest or replacement, and (3) the present or a replacement filter is qualified in the second train by August 23, 1974. These provisions are based on the considerations that the redundant capability of the system to purge hydrogen is not affected by the lack of qualification on the one filter and that initial testing at low power (<15%) is scheduled to take at least until August 23 thus assuring very low fission product inventories in the improbable event of a loss-of-coolant accident requiring subsequent hydrogen purge.

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We note that the Technical Specifications do not now explicitly require both hydrogen purge filter trains to be operable when reactor building integrity is required. It is our intent to modify Section 3.3.1 of the Technical Specifications to require both filter trains as soon as the second one has been installed.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Voss A. Moore

Voss A. Moore, Assistant Director
for Light Water Reactors, Group 2
Directorate of Licensing

cc: Horace Jewell, Esquire
House, Holms & Jewell
1550 Tower Building
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Honorable Wayne Nordin
Acting County Judge of Pope County
Pope County Courthouse
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

Mr. E. F. Wilson, Director
Bureau of Environmental
Health Services
4815 West Markham Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

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