

August 14, 1978

Docket No. 50-313

Arkansas Power & Light Company  
ATTN: Mr. William Cavanaugh, III  
Executive Director, Generation  
and Construction Department  
Post Office Box 551  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Gentlemen:

The reactor vessel surveillance specimens for Arkansas Nuclear One - Unit No. 1 (ANO-1) are being irradiated at Davis-Besse Unit No. 1 (DB-1) as part of the Reactor Vessel Integrated Surveillance Program. ANO-1 Technical Specification 4.2.8 requires that if DB-1 fails to achieve commercial operation at 100% power by January 1, 1978, you shall submit a report which justifies continued operation of ANO-1 with the reactor vessel surveillance program conducted at DB-1 or shall propose an alternative program for conduct of the ANO-1 reactor vessel surveillance program.

By letter dated March 31, 1978, you advised the NRC that DB-1 had failed to achieve commercial operation at 100% power by January 1, 1978, and provided a discussion of why you believed continued operation of ANO-1 with the reactor vessel surveillance program conducted at DB-1 was justified.

We have reviewed your submittal of March 31, 1978, and conclude that continued operation of ANO-1 is acceptable. Attached is our evaluation which supports this conclusion.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Reid, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch #4  
Division of Operating Reactors

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS  
POOR QUALITY PAGES

Enclosure:  
Evaluation Supporting Continued  
Operation of ANO-1

cc w/enclosure: See next page

\* SEE PREVIOUS YELLOW FOR CONCURRENCE

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Docket No. 50-313

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Executive Director, Generation  
and Construction Department  
Post Office Box 551  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

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By letter dated March 31, 1978, you advised the NRC that DB-1 had failed to achieve commercial operation at 100% power by January 1, 1978, and provided a discussion of why you believed continued operation of ANO-1 with the reactor vessel surveillance program conducted at DB-1 was justified.

We have reviewed your submittal of March 31, 1978, and conclude that ANO-1 be allowed to continue operation. Attached is our evaluation which supports this conclusion.

*Continued operation of ANO-1 is acceptable*

Sincerely,

Robert W. Reid, Chief  
Operating Reactors Branch #4  
Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosure:  
Evaluation Supporting Continued  
Operation of ANO-1

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DATE	6/1/78	6/1/78	6/1/78		



Arkansas Power & Light Company

cc:

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EVALUATION SUPPORTING CONTINUED

OPERATION OF ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE - UNIT 1

By letter dated March 31, 1978, Arkansas Power and Light Company (AP&L) the licensee of Arkansas Nuclear One - Unit 1, advised the NRC that Davis Besse, Unit 1 had failed to achieve commercial operation at 100% power by January 1, 1978, and provided a justification for continued operation of ANO-1. The reason for this justification is that the surveillance specimens for Arkansas 1 are being irradiated in the Davis Besse, Unit 1 reactor vessel and Technical Specification 4.2.8 requires that if Davis Besse, Unit 1 fails to achieve 100% power by January 1, 1978, the licensees of these vessels shall submit a report to NRC justifying continued operation.

The date of commercial operation for Davis Besse 1 is November 20, 1977. Since the beginning of 1978, Davis Besse operated at about 75% capacity until May 5, 1978. On May 5 the plant was shut down to inspect and replace burnable poison rod assemblies. It is anticipated that Davis Besse 1 will startup by the middle of June and full power is expected to be reached shortly thereafter. The plant has reached full power on two days, April 4 and 5, 1978. To date the plant has operated for 87 EFPD.

At the end of 345 EPD's of operation of Arkansas Nuclear One - Unit 1 (ANO-1), capsule ANI-E was withdrawn and the contents were tested. Based on the results of these tests the ANO-1 pressure-temperature limits of the reactor coolant pressure boundary were modified and these new limits are applicable through 5 effective full power years (EFPY) of operation. As of February 2, 1978, ANO-1 completed the second cycle of operation. The accumulated days of service as of this date were 772 EFPD. The first ANO-1 capsule to be withdrawn from Davis Besse will be at the end of the first Davis Besse cycle and will have received a fluence of  $6.5 \times 10^{18}$  n/cm<sup>2</sup>. The data from this capsule will be available in time to provide a basis for updated pressure-temperature operating limits for ANO-1 prior to the expiration of the present limits.

We have reviewed the requests for continued operation of ANO-1. We conclude that ANO-1 should be allowed to continue operation for the following reasons:

- (1) The delay in getting data from ANO-1 surveillance programs resulting from the delay in Davis Besse reaching 100% power will not affect the generation of new operating limits for these plants.
- (2) A prime objective of the Babcock and Wilcox integrated surveillance program is to obtain data on as many Babcock and Wilcox weld materials as possible by the early 1980's. This information is required to implement the positions to be developed in the generic technical activity on low upper shelf materials.

A delay of 1/2 year in getting the results of surveillance specimens being irradiated in Davis Besse will not adversely affect this activity.