

JAN 18 1990

In Reply Refer To:
Docket: 50-313/OL 90-01

Arkansas Power & Light Company
ATTN: Gene Campbell, Vice President
Nuclear Operations
P.O. Box 551
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: EXAMINATION REPORT ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT 1 (ANO 1)

On November 13-15, 1989, NRC administered examinations to employees of your company who had applied for reactor operator licenses to operate the ANO 1 facility. Two of four applicants passed all parts of these examinations. Two applicants failed the written examination only. The performance of all applicants on the simulator portion of the operating examination was satisfactory overall, but displayed significant deficiencies in several areas.

Over the past year, ANO examination reports have highlighted evidence of declining operator performance, particularly among senior operators. In recent weeks, operational errors committed by licensed operators, one of whom is a senior operator, have resulted in two unnecessary plant trips. These facts coupled with the results of this examination visit further support the NRC's concern that performance of ANO operators and applicants is declining. However, based on overall examination performance of licensed operators and crew responses to recent operator induced trips, we conclude that operator performance is satisfactory and that safe plant operations are not jeopardized at this time. You are encouraged to continue your investigation of operator training and performance, which we understand was begun in the fall of 1989. In addition, we are aware of recent initiatives by your staff which are focused on personnel error reduction and enhanced communication of management expectations throughout the plant organization. We shall continue to monitor your efforts in this area.

Comments provided at the exit meeting and later in ANO Letter ICAN118909 of November 27, 1989, indicated your staff's serious concerns over validity of the written examination. Based on these comments and discussions in a meeting with your staff on December 21, 1989, it was evident that there was considerable difference in interpretation of NRC guidance on examination development, particularly regarding knowledge and ability areas subject to examination. We believe that your staff now has a better understanding of our expectations.

RIV:OLS*	C:OLS*	D:DRS*	D:DRP*
SLMcCrorry/lb	JLPellet	LJCallan	SJCollins
/ /90	/ /90	\\ /90	/ /90

*Previously concurred

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No formal response to this report is required. Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
Samuel J. Collins

Samuel J. Collins, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure: Appendix - NRC Operator
Licensing Exam Report 50-313/OL 90-01

cc w/enclosure:
Arkansas Nuclear One
ATTN: Early Ewing, General Manager
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Arkansas Nuclear One
ATTN: Neil Carns, Director
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ATTN: Charles B. Brinkman, Manager
Washington Nuclear Operations
12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 330
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Honorable Joe W. Phillips
County Judge of Pope County
Pope County Courthouse
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Bishop, Cook, Purcell & Reynolds
ATTN: Nicholas S. Reynolds, Esq.
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Arkansas Power & Light Company

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Arkansas Department of Health
ATTN: Ms. Greta Dicus, Director
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4815 West Markam Street
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Babcock & Wilcox
Nuclear Power Generation Division
ATTN: Mr. Robert B. Borsum
1700 Rockville Pike, Suite 525
Rockville, Maryland 20852

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Senior Resident Inspector
1 Nuclear Plant Road
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Regional Administrator, Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011

bcc to DMB (IE42)

bcc distrib. by RIV:

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