



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555-0001

June 15, 1994

Mr. David Druding  
People's Action for a Safe Environment  
1410 Cato Springs Road  
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

Dear Mr. Druding:

This is a response to your letter dated May 27, 1994, in which you asked various questions relative to spent fuel storage at the Arkansas Nuclear One Power Station (ANO). I have restated your questions and provided a response for each.

1. How many spent radioactive fuel rods are presently stored on-site at ANO?

Answer: There are 685 fuel assemblies in the Unit 1 spent fuel pool. Additionally there are a total of 177 fuel assemblies in the Unit 1 reactor.

There are 637 fuel assemblies in the Unit 2 spent fuel pool. Additionally there are a total of 177 fuel assemblies in the Unit 2 reactor.

2. How many additional fuel rods are there room for in all the on-site spent fuel cooling pools and how many total spent fuel cooling pools are there at ANO?

Answer: There are two spent fuel pools at ANO. One pool is used to store fuel from the Unit 1 reactor and the other pool stores Unit 2 reactor fuel. The Unit 1 pool was built to store a total of 968 fuel assemblies. At the present time, there is room for 283 additional fuel assemblies in the Unit 1 pool. The Unit 2 pool was built to store 988 fuel assemblies. At the present time, there is room for 351 additional fuel assemblies in the Unit 2 pool.

3. Operating under full power how frequently must the plant operator, Arkansas Power & Light (AP&L), replace the fuel rods?

Answer: Both ANO reactors refuel after 18 months of operation at power. During each refueling approximately 1/3 of the fuel assemblies in the reactor are replaced. For your information in 1989 the ANO operating license was transferred from AP&L to Entergy Operations.

4. At what date does AP&L presently anticipate running out of room for additional spent fuel rods in their present cooling pools.

Answer: Unit 1 anticipates running out of room in the spent fuel pool in 1996. Unit 2 anticipates running out of room in 1997. These dates are projected for the time when the fuel pools will lose the ability to off-load all the fuel from the reactor. For safety reasons it is

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desirable to always have room in the spent fuel pool for a core off-load, i.e. have the ability to remove all fuel from the reactor into the spent fuel pool.

- 5. How many spent fuel rods will fit into each altered VSC-24 dry cask that AP&L is requesting to build?

Answer: Each cask can hold 24 fuel assemblies.

- 6. How many of these altered VSC-24 dry cask storage units has AP&L requested to build?

Answer: Fourteen casks are currently ordered for ANO.

Please feel free to communicate with us again if you have questions or concerns about ANO. My telephone number at NRC headquarters is (301) 504-1308. We also have a permanent inspection staff at ANO. Their telephone number is (501) 968-3290. You can call either of these numbers for information in the future.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

George Kalman, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate, IV-1  
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: Ms. Greta Dicus, Director  
Division of Radiation Control  
and Emergency Management  
Arkansas Department of Health  
4815 West Markham Street  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867

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