

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	
)	
ENERGY OPERATIONS, INC.)	Docket No. 50-368
)	
(Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2))	

EXEMPTION

I.

Entergy Operations, Inc. (the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License No. NPF-6, which authorizes operation of Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2 (ANO-2). The license provides, among other things, that the licensee is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission now or hereafter in effect.

The facility consists of two pressurized water reactors, Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2, located at the licensee's site in Pope County, Arkansas.

II.

In its letter dated December 23, 1996, the licensee requested an exemption from certain requirements in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50, Appendix R, Section III.0, for ANO-2.

III.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, the Commission may, upon application by any interested person or upon its own initiative, grant exemptions from the

requirements of 10 CFR Part 50 when (1) the exemptions are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to public health or safety, and are consistent with the common defense and security and (2) when special circumstances are present. Special circumstances are present whenever, according to 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), "Application of the regulation in the particular circumstances would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule...."

10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Section III.0 requires that the reactor coolant pump (RCP) shall be equipped with an oil collection system if the containment is not inerted during normal operation. The oil collection system shall be so designed, engineered, and installed that failure will not lead to fire during normal or design basis accident conditions and that there is reasonable assurance that the system will withstand the Safe Shutdown Earthquake. The underlying purpose of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Section III.0 is to ensure that leaking oil will not lead to a fire which could damage safe shutdown systems during normal or design basis accident conditions.

On the basis of the enclosed safety evaluation, the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff concluded that the design of the oil filling system and the level of protection provided by the licensee through the use of certain compensatory measures during oil fill operations provides reasonable assurance that a lube oil fire will not occur. The staff also concluded that a worst-case postulated fire, due to not having a lube oil collection system for the RCP lube oil fill lines, would be of limited magnitude and extent. In

addition, such a fire would not cause significant damage in the containment building and would not prevent the operators from achieving and maintaining safe shutdown conditions. The staff concluded, therefore, that the lack of an oil collection system for the RCP lube oil fill lines is an acceptable exemption from the technical requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Section III.O.

IV.

Therefore, contingent on the use of the compensatory measures that are itemized in the licensee's December 23, 1996, exemption request, the NRC staff has concluded that the licensee's proposed use of the remote oil addition system will not present an undue risk to public health and safety and is consistent with the common defense and security. The NRC staff has determined that there are special circumstances present, as specified in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2), in that application of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Section III.O is not necessary in order to achieve the underlying purpose of this regulation.

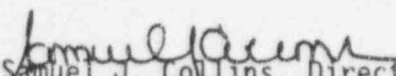
Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), an exemption is authorized by law, will not endanger life or property or common defense and security, and is, otherwise, in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix R, Section III.O to the extent that the RCP lube oil fill lines are required to be protected with a collection system.

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (62 FR 19632).

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 14th day of June 1997.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Samuel J. Collins, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation