

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the matter of	}	
ARKANSAS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY	}	Docket Nos. 50-313
(Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2)	}	and 50-368

EXEMPTION

I

Arkansas Power & Light Company (AP&L or the licensee) is the holder of Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-51 and NPF-6 which authorize the operation of Arkansas Nuclear One, Units 1 and 2 (the facilities) at steady state power levels not in excess of 2568 and 2815 megawatts thermal respectively. The licenses provide, among other things, that the facilities are subject to all rules, regulations, and Orders of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) now or hereafter in effect. The facilities are pressurized water reactors (PWRs) located at the licensee's site in Pope County, Arkansas.

II

10 CFR 50.71, "Maintenance of records, making of reports," sets forth the requirements for recordkeeping and reporting in connection with licensed activities. Paragraph (e) of this section sets forth specific requirements for the filing of annual revisions to the Final Safety Analysis (FSARs).

By letter dated May 13, 1988 as supplemented July 19, 1988, AP&L requested an exemption from the schedular requirement of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4). The specific

III

exemption requested was a one-time 90-day extension of the filing date for the year 1988 annual FSAR revisions for the facilities. The date of the last previous FSAR revisions for the facilities was July 22, 1987. Therefore, the licensee requests that the annual filing date be moved, this one time, from July 22 to October 20, 1988. It should be noted that the staff is requiring that this delayed revision reflect all changes to the facilities through April 20, 1988, and that all future revision filing dates shall be July 22.

The staff's principal concern was that a delay in revising the FSAR could lessen the FSARs' effectiveness in support of safety-related activities by AP&L. However, the need for the filing date extension was to allow completion of the licensee-initiated Safety Analysis Report (SAR) Upgrade Project, which was delayed by the sixth refueling outage on Unit 2. The grant of this exemption would allow the benefits derived from the SAR Upgrade Project to be incorporated into the 1988 annual FSAR revision. This SAR Upgrade Project goes beyond the requirements of 10 CFR 50.71(c) in regard to what must be included in the annual FSAR revisions. Begun in April of 1987, it has included a chapter-by-chapter detailed technical review of the entire FSARs for both facilities. The SAR Upgrade Project should result in a better defined and more comprehensive licensing basis, which will greatly enhance the effectiveness of the FSARs in support of safety-related activities. Therefore, the staff concludes that the granting of the 90-day filing date extension will not result in an adverse impact on public health and safety, and should improve the quality of safety related activities of AP&L because of the significant improvements to be made in the quality of the FSARs.

The special circumstances of 10 CFR 50.12 apply in that the exemption would result in benefit to the public health and safety that compensates for any decrease in safety that may result from the granting of the exemption. In this case, no decrease in safety is expected and a benefit to the health and safety of the public through improved quality in the conduct of safety-related activities by AP&L, should be realized.

IV

Accordingly, the Commission has determined that, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, this exemption is authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and is consistent with the common defense and security. The Commission has further determined that special circumstances, as set forth in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(iv), are present justifying the exemption, namely that the exemption would result in benefit to the public health and safety that compensates for any decrease in safety that may result from the grant of the exemption.

Accordingly, the Commission hereby grants the exemption from the schedular requirement of 10 CFR 50.71(e)(4) as described in Section III above.

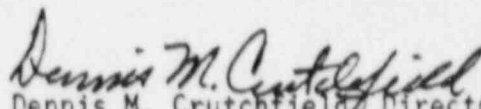
Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32 the Commission has determined that the granting of this Exemption will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment (53 FR 29398).

The Safety Evaluation concurrently issued and related to this action and the licensee's May 13 and July 19, 1988 submittals are available for public

inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the local public document room located at the Tomlinson Library, Arkansas Technical University, Russellville, Arkansas 72801.

This exemption is effective upon issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Dennis M. Crutchfield, Director
Division of Reactor Projects - III, IV,
V and Special Projects
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Dated at Rockville, Maryland
this 26th day of August 1988.