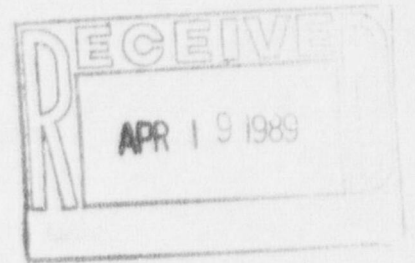




ARKANSAS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

POST OFFICE BOX 551 LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203 (501) 377-4000

April 17, 1989



ØCANØ489Ø6

Mr. L. J. Callan, Director  
Reactor Projects Division  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Revision IV  
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000  
Arlington, TX 76011

SUBJECT: Arkansas Nuclear One - Units 1 & 2  
Docket Nos. 50-313 and 50-368  
License Nos. DPR-51 and NPF-6  
Request for Additional Information  
Inspection Report 50-313-368/88-17

Dear Mr. Callan:

In response to Generic Letter 82-21, Arkansas Power and Light Company (AP&L) committed to implement procedural guidance that would help prevent void formation in the reactor vessel head in the event of a natural circulation cooldown. The current Abnormal Operating Procedure for natural circulation cooldown satisfies this commitment and is in compliance with NRC Safety Evaluation Report issued July 11, 1985 (1CNAØ785Ø3). However, during the 1988 Abnormal/Emergency Operating Procedure Audit, the inspection team stated that the NRC Staff's technical position on upper head voiding had changed (documented by Inspection Report 50-313-368/88-17 (ØCANØ78818) Open Item 50-313/88-17-04). Specifically, the inspection reports states, "Controlled voiding in the reactor vessel upper head is now an acceptable strategy provided that it can be done using all safety grade equipment with NRC approved procedures and licensed operators trained in the use of these procedures."

As indicated in our response (ØCANØ189Ø7 dated January 20, 1989), we are unaware of any generic guidance the NRC has issued to utilities changing the technical position on upper head voiding. Comments made during the Exit Meeting inferred that the subject position change is documented by an internal NRC memorandum. In order to support our commitment to evaluate

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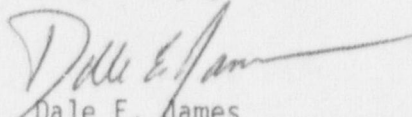
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April 17, 1989

this issue with a proposed schedule and scope by June 30, 1989, it is requested that documentation of the subject NRC position change be provided to AP&L. Your prompt assistance is appreciated.

Very truly yours,



Dale E. James  
Supervisor, Licensing

DEJ:JM:de