



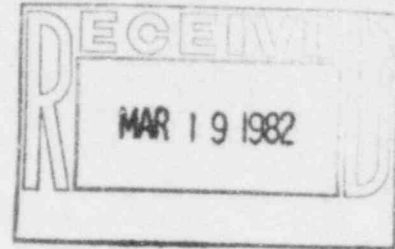
ARKANSAS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

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March 9, 1982

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Mr. W. C. Seidle, Chief
Reactor Project Branch #2
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region IV
611 Ryan Plaza Drive, Suite 1000
Arlington, Texas 76011



Subject: Arkansas Nuclear One - Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. 50-313 and 50-368
License Nos. DPR-51 and NPF-6
Postaccident Sampling Capability -
NUREG 0737 Item II.B.3
(File: 1510.3, 2-1510.3)

Gentlemen:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm our telephone conversation of March 3, 1982, and to update you as to the current status of AP&L's efforts to comply with NUREG 0737 Item II.B.3 - Postaccident Sampling Capability.

NUREG 0737 Item II.B.3 requires licensees to have the capability to obtain and analyze samples of reactor coolant and containment atmosphere under accident conditions. As described in our letter from Mr. D. C. Trimble to Mr. D. G. Eisenhut dated December 21, 1981 (ØCAN1281Ø9), AP&L began extensive plant modifications in late 1980 to meet these requirements. These modifications included construction of a new 1400 square foot building to house sample panels, radiation detection equipment, computers and miscellaneous auxiliary equipment. Due to the magnitude of the modifications required and various start-up problems, AP&L was unable to meet the January 1, 1982, implementation date specified in NUREG 0737.

As described in our December 31, 1981, letter we planned to complete a number of the outstanding items by March 1, 1982. All of these items have been completed with the exception of start-up testing of the inline boron analysis equipment. Although this would not prevent use of the system for radionuclide analysis in an emergency, we do not feel it is prudent to conduct a final integrated system test until the problems described below have been resolved.

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March 9, 1982

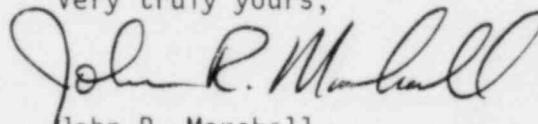
Since January 1, 1982, AP&L has encountered continuing start-up problems with the inline boron analysis equipment. As described in our December 31, 1981, letter, hardware difficulties discovered at the factory prevented delivery of this equipment until late December 1981. Since its installation, the equipment has been unable to perform within accuracy specifications during site acceptance testing. AP&L has been working closely with the vendor, Orion Research Inc. of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to try to resolve this problem. Representatives of Orion have been at ANO for extended periods and at present a member of the ANO Engineering staff is present at Orion's shop in an effort to expedite resolution. Further, telephone conversations between Mr. John Griffin, Vice President of Nuclear Operations for AP&L, and Mr. Alex Jenkins, President of Orion Research, have confirmed that this matter is being given the highest priority by Orion.

It should be noted that at the time AP&L began procurement of this equipment, Orion was the only vendor able to supply boron analysis equipment designed to perform in the presence of radiation source terms of the magnitude specified by NUREG 0737. As such, this is a first of a kind system. Orion has informed us that it has purchase orders for twenty additional systems for use in other nuclear power facilities. In light of this situation, we feel Orion is committed to the resolution of the problems encountered at ANO.

During the past week, significant progress has been made at the Orion shop and current plans are for Orion representatives to arrive back at ANO early next week to begin implementation of corrective actions developed at the factory. If these efforts are successful, start-up testing could be completed by the end of March.

We will continue to keep the resident inspectors abreast of this situation and will inform you of any significant developments.

Very truly yours,



John R. Marshall
Manager, Licensing

JRM:DRH:s1

cc: Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
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