



ARKANSAS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

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January 8, 1983

2CAN018308

TELECOPY

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
ATTN: Mr. Robert A. Clark, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Licensing
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: Arkansas Nuclear One - Unit 2
Docket No. 50-368 License No. NPF-6
Clairification of NRC SER Dated
01/09/83 on Recirc. Line Modifications

Gentlemen:

On January 6, 1983, a conversation was held between Mr. Oliver Lynch and Mr. J.T. Beard of NRC and Mr. Ted Enos of my staff to discuss the Safety Evaluation being prepared by Mr. Beard in response to our submittal dated January 5, 1983, (2CAN018303) requesting relief from the monthly Plant Protection System (PPS) surveillance tests for the month of January 1983. Specifically, Mr. Beard noted that if it was not appropriate to enter the PPS cabinets during power operation for PPS surveillance, he did not believe it appropriate to enter the cabinets for any maintenance should a failure occur.

It was suggested that if a PPS channel failed during operation, it should be placed in the "trip" condition and not opened for repairs. Further, should a second PPS channel fail, the Technical Specifications would govern conditions under which continued operation could continue.

We understood this condition to apply to plant operating conditions under which the PPS is required to be operational and agreed as such to this SER conclusion.

During a conversation late afternoon on January 7, 1983, with NRR, Region IV, Little Rock, and ANO personnel, some confusion with regard to the intent of this requirement arose. We were informed that this statement applied to all modes of plant operation and that we were not to enter the PPS cabinets at any time for any reason.

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During a phone conversation with Mr. Oliver Lynch, Mr. J.T. Beard (NRR), Mr. John Collins (Region IV), Mr. John Marshall (et al) at approximately 12:00 p.m. on January 8, 1983, that position was modified to be consistent with the original intent of the SER restriction.

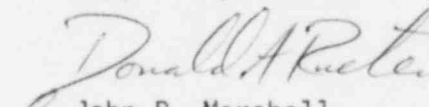
The statement of concern is located in your Safety Evaluation Report dated January 7, 1983, located on page 4 in Section 4.0. and is repeated as follows.

"...Further we believe that due to the unknown nature of potential problems, the licensee should also not disturb these RPS cabinets to conduct repair actions in the event of a channel malfunction that could possibly occur during this month. If a channel malfunction/failure should occur, it should be placed only in a tripped condition as prescribed by the Technical Specifications. If multiple channels should fail, the Technical Specifications cover the conditions under which plant operation may continue..."

We now understand this restriction to apply to modes of plant operation in which the PPS/RPS is required to be Operable. During Mode 5 or 6 operation, entry into the PPS cabinets is allowable for design verification, adjustments, etc. We further understand it is the desire of NRC that no significant modification to the PPS occur at this time (until concurred with and/or approved by NRC, as appropriate). Such a limitation would include modifications to the connector AJ3109 and DJ3109 or the like.

If our interpretation is incorrect, we request you notify us immediately. A copy of this letter is being forwarded to the Region IV office.

Very Truly Yours,


for John R. Marshall
Manager, Licensing

JRM/JTE