



ARKANSAS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

POST OFFICE BOX 551 LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203 (501) 371-4000

December 30, 1983

ØCAN1283Ø8

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: Arkansas Nuclear One - Units 1 & 2  
Docket Nos. 50-313 and 50-368  
License Nos. DPR-51 and NPF-6  
NRC Exercise Exemption Request

Gentlemen:

During the past three years, Arkansas Power and Light Company (AP&L) has conducted three successful emergency planning exercises at the Arkansas Nuclear One (ANO) site in accordance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements. The NRC regulations on exercise frequency, which are set forth at 10CFR50.47(a)(2) and Appendix E, Section F of Part 50, require an NRC power reactor licensee to "exercise at least annually the emergency plan for each site at which it has one or more power reactors licensed for operation."

As you know, however, this NRC requirement of an annual emergency planning exercise for commercial nuclear power plants is no longer consistent with FEMA regulations, which as of October 28, 1983, require state and local governments with commercial nuclear power plant sites within their boundaries, or which are within the ten-mile plume exposure pathway Emergency Planning Zone of such a site, to participate in emergency plan exercises with power plant licensees "at least every two years." (See 44CFR350.9(c)(1) and (3), set forth at 48 Fed. Reg. 44332, 44339 (September 28, 1983)). In promulgating this rule, FEMA stated that some relaxation in the exercise frequency (i.e., from an annual to a biennial requirement) was appropriate "because of the experience gained by state and local governments in this and other exercise activity, as well as response to actual emergencies. In addition, reducing the overall number of exercises held should result in higher quality performance and greater emphasis on areas needing improvement in those exercises that are held" (48 Fed. Reg. 44335)

8401170377 831230  
PDR ADOCK 05000313  
F PDR

1045  
11  
MEMBER MIDDLE SOUTH UTILITIES SYSTEM

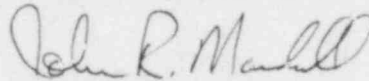
December 30, 1983

On the basis of the three successful emergency planning exercises at ANO, and in view of the current inconsistency between NRC and FEMA requirements, AP&L hereby requests, pursuant to 10CFR50.12, that it be granted an exemption from the NRC regulation requiring a full scale emergency planning exercise in 1984. We believe that the results of these previous annual exercises document the serious attention which AP&L devotes to its emergency planning exercises, the company's continuing overall proficiency in conducting such exercises, and its improvement in various areas in response to NRC comments.

It is our understanding that the NRC has agreed to support an exemption request of this nature if Region VI of FEMA will support a corresponding exemption request from state and local organizations. Such an exemption request was recently filed with FEMA by the Arkansas Department of Health (see Attachment A), and FEMA Region VI supports the exemption request (see Attachment B).

We appreciate your attention and assistance on this request, and look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Please make every effort to take final action on this request in early January 1984, since the next exercise is scheduled for March 1984 and we must know in January for planning purposes whether a full scale exercise needs to be conducted.

Very truly yours,



John R. Marshall  
Manager, Licensing

JRM:s1

Attachments



# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Region VI, Federal Center, 800 North Loop 288  
Denton, Texas 76201-3698

RECEIVED  
DECEMBER 1, 1983  
ARKANSAS POWER & LIGHT CO.  
Energy Supply - Nuclear Operations

MEMORANDUM FOR: DAVE McLOUGHLIN  
Deputy Associate Director  
State and Local Programs and Support

ATTENTION: Richard Krimm, Assistant Associate Director  
Office of Natural and Technological Hazards Programs

FROM: Jerry *Signed* mens, Regional Director

SUBJECT: Requesting Exemption for Annual Radiological Emergency  
Preparedness Exercise for Arkansas Nuclear One per  
Final Rule, 44 CFR, Part 350

On November 15, 1983, members of my Technological Hazards Branch met with representatives from the State of Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Power and Light Company, and the Regional Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reference the above subject. This meeting was held at the Regional NRC office in Arlington, Texas. The State of Arkansas stated they needed a decision concerning this exemption as soon as possible since it will be necessary for them to start their objectives and scenario meetings for the annual exercise projected to be held sometime in March 1984. See the attached letter from the State of Arkansas Department of Health for additional details to FEMA requesting this exemption.

The State of Arkansas has held three successful annual exercises at ANO with no major deficiencies and FEMA Region VI is in concurrence with the request from the State of Arkansas Department of Health and recommend that an exemption be granted. Please advise as soon as possible your decision.

cc: Frank Wilson, Department of Health  
✓ John Marshall, Arkansas Power and Light Company  
Richard Bangart, Nuclear Regulatory Commission



BILL CLINTON  
GOVERNOR

# Arkansas DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

4815 WEST MARKHAM STREET - LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201  
TELEPHONE AC 601-661-2000

BEN N. SALTZMAN, M.D.  
DIRECTOR

November 17, 1983

Mr. Jerry Stevens  
Regional Director, Region VI  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Federal Center  
Denton, Texas

Dear Mr. Stevens:

On November 15, 1983, Martin Tull and myself met with Messrs. Albert Lookabough and Gary Jones of your office along with representatives of the Arkansas Power and Light Company and Region IV, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The purpose of the meeting was to address a conflict in exercise frequency requirements between 10CFR50 and FEMA's final rule 44CFR350.

The central problem posed by the two regulations cited is that State and Local government may, with FEMA approval, go to a two year exercise frequency for REP plans, while the utilities remain under a regulatory mandate to exercise annually. Region IV, NRC has agreed to support a request for exemption to the annual full scale exercise requirement for Arkansas Power and Light in 1984 if Region VI, FEMA will do likewise for State and Local organizations. It was agreed at the meeting that the first step in this process was to make a formal request for exemption. The State of Arkansas agreed to make this request to FEMA, Region VI while Arkansas Power and Light would make a similar request to NRC, Region IV.

I would like to submit this correspondence as an official request for exemption from a requirement for a full-scale REP exercise in 1984, pursuant to 44CFR350, effective October 28, 1983.

I appreciate your assistance in the effort, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

E.F. Wilson  
Director, Division of Radiation Control & Emergency Management  
Arkansas Department of Health

EFW:bam

cc: John Marshall, Arkansas Power and Light Company  
Richard Bangart, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region IV