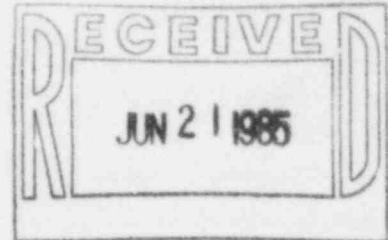




ARKANSAS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

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

June 18, 1985



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Mr. Richard P. Denise, Director
Division of Reactor Safety and Projects
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region 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. D/R-51 and NPF-6
Low-Level Radioactive Waste Storage
Building Construction on the ANO Site

Gentlemen:

At your verbal request, this letter provides you with additional information on our new Low-Level Radioactive Waste Storage Building (LLRWSB) which is presently under construction at the Arkansas Nuclear One site.

As we discussed, the LLRWSB facility will be built in compliance with Generic Letter 81-38, which contains applicable NRC guidance on such facilities. In accordance with the Generic Letter, a review was conducted per the provisions of 10CFR50.59. This review concluded there would be no significant environmental impact as a result of this project.

Although explicit notification to NRC was not required, AP&L personnel met with NRC's Mr. Hugh Thompson and the NRR/DL Branch Chiefs on February 7, 1985 and presented information on our proposed LLRWSB, among other items. Subsequent to this meeting, AP&L followed-up with our letter ØCANØ285Ø3 dated February 25, 1985 which provided NRC with a written overview of our proposed facility, projected costs, construction schedule, etc.

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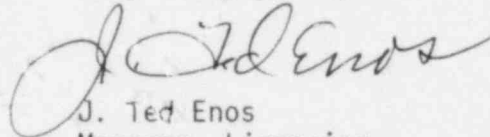
June 18, 1985

In addition to notification of the NRC, between December 7 and December 18, 1984, the mayors of the cities of Russellville, Dardanelle and London, Arkansas and the County Judges for Logan, Johnson, Pope and Yell Counties were briefed on our decision to construct an on-site Low-Level Radwaste Storage Facility. Also during this time frame, the State Senators and Representatives for the above counties were contacted, as were the Arkansas Department of Health, The Arkansas Geology Commission, The Arkansas Energy Department, and The Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology. We also understand that the Arkansas Energy Department notified the Arkansas Governor's Office.

News releases were also prepared for local radio stations and area newspapers (daily and weekly circulation). Examples of resulting news articles are enclosed. It is also significant, we feel, that the Pope County Quorum Court voted on April 4, 1985 in a public meeting to authorize \$10 million dollars in pollution control construction bonds to be used, in part, for the construction of the LLRWSB. A newspaper article on this action is also enclosed.

In conclusion, we feel the above shows that AP&L made a significant effort to inform the NRC, the local public and appropriate State and Local Officials as to our plans, and to ensure that the facility will be constructed and operated in compliance with applicable NRC guidelines.

Very truly yours,



J. Ted Enos
Manager, Licensing

DET:as

Enclosure

RUSSELLVILLE [Pope]

Russellville Courier Democrat

JAN 22 1985

AP&L will store low-level waste in new building

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Arkansas Power & Light Co. announced today it will construct a building on the grounds of Arkansas Nuclear One to hold low-level waste material temporarily pending the development of a regional site for its disposal.

"Presently, we store this material, which consists of resins, filters and general trash items, in a prefabricated building prior to shipping it to low-level disposal sites in South Carolina and Washington state," said John Griffin, senior vice president for energy supply. "A new federal law, however, will limit our accessibility to those facilities. We will now hold the material at the plant pending the approval and development of the regional site."

The new regional disposal site is expected to be operational by the early 1990s.

"Therefore, we will construct this building so it can be converted

to other uses, such as office or warehouse space, once the regional site is operational," Griffin said.

He emphasized that the material to be stored is of the same classification as the low-level waste found in hospitals, industrial processes and research facilities. The building will not be used for storing high-level waste, nor will it house low-level waste from any other nuclear plant.

Arkansas is a member of a regional compact that also includes the states of Louisiana, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Kansas. Authorities in these states are in the process of identifying a disposal site.

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AP&L to Build Facility For Radioactive Waste

RUSSELLVILLE (AP) — A temporary holding facility for low-level radioactive waste is to be constructed on the grounds of Arkansas Power & Light Company's Arkansas Nuclear One generating station, the utility announced yesterday.

The building is to be used until a regional site is developed for disposal of low-level waste, officials said.

"Presently, we store this material, which consists of resins, filters and low-level trash items, in a prefabricated building prior to shipping it to low-level disposal sites in South Carolina and Washington state," said John Griffin, AP&L senior vice president for energy supply.

Griffin said in a news release that new federal statutes will limit AP&L's access to those facilities. "We will now hold the material at the

plant pending the approval and development of the regional site," he said.

Griffin said the regional site is to be ready for waste storage by the early 1990s. The new building at Nuclear One, he said, will be constructed so it can be converted to other uses "such as office or warehouse space."

The waste to be stored in the new building is of the same classification as low-level waste found in research facilities, hospitals and industries, Griffin said.

Arkansas is a member of a regional compact which includes Louisiana, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Kansas, and authorities in the states are in the process of locating a disposal site.

AP&L to build storage facility for nuclear waste

BY PAUL BARTON
Democrat Staff Writer

JAN. 24 1985

Arkansas Power & Light Co. announced Tuesday it plans to have an on-site facility constructed by the end of the year to handle low-level radioactive wastes produced by Arkansas Nuclear One power plant at Russellville.

The 20,000-square-foot building - which will be located in the northern corner of the power plant grounds - will be used to handle storage of low-level radioactive wastes until a regional disposal facility is established in the central United States, said David Snellings, AP&L corporate health physicist.

Currently, the company ships the 23,000 to 30,000 cubic feet of low-level radioactive waste that it produces a year to a disposal site at Richland, Wash., which is one of the three commercially operated low-level radioactive waste disposal sites in the country.

The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act passed by Congress in 1980 requires states to take responsibility for their own low-level waste starting Jan. 1, 1986.

States were also permitted by the act to handle that responsibility by forming interstate compacts and establishing regional disposal facilities.

Arkansas belongs to the Central Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact along with Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Louisiana.

Hall Bohlinger of Baton Rouge, La., chairman of the compact, said a facility to handle all low-level radioactive wastes from the five-state area should be established within five years.

Until then, he said, the utility companies that operate seven nuclear power plants in those states are being encouraged to develop on-site disposal facilities since those plants produce the overwhelming majority of the low-level wastes.

Snellings said AP&L's new building, which will have concrete walls ranging from ¼ to 1-foot thick, will be put up for bids this week.

It's expected to take 11 months to finish it, he added.

RUSSELLVILLE [Pope]

Russellville Courier Democrat

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JPs vote \$10 million bonds for low-level N-waste dump

By Laura L. Shull

Staff writer

There were arguments Thursday night against and statements for construction of a storage facility for low-level radioactive waste at Arkansas Nuclear One.

Despite pleas that a "monster" would be created at Nuclear One and that the "people shouldn't subsidize Arkansas Power & Light Co.," the Pope County Quorum Court voted 10-1 to authorize issuance of \$10 million in Act 9 construction bonds for pollution control construction at Nuclear One.

Voting against issuance of the Act 9 bonds was Clifton Duvall. Voting for

were Dale Brown, G. Ray Baker Sr., Hurlan Muncy, Gene Rankin, Vernon Howard, J.B. Lemley, Mrs. Frances Sammons, Clarence Ehemann, Clyde Kilburn and Jim Gibson.

'Go ahead anyway'

Jim Levine, general manager at Nuclear One, told the justices of the peace that whether or not the court approved the bonds, AP&L would go ahead and build the low-level waste storage facility. AP&L owns and operates Nuclear One.

Levine said the federal government is mandating construction of the storage facility locally because of federal law limiting accessibility to

out-of-state low-level disposal sites.

John Harton, AP&L treasurer, said the facility "has to be built," that Act 9 bonds were another method of financing construction and at lower cost.

'Foolhardy'

Donald W. Clark of Russellville termed construction of a "nuclear waste dump" at Nuclear One "foolhardy" and said it would destroy the agricultural district.

"One mistake (there) and there will be havoc," said Clark. "The area is on or near an earthquake fault and a devastating earthquake is forecast. AP&L said nothing about building a

waste dump when they talked about building Nuclear One."

Clark told the 11 JPs they were elected by the people of Pope County and the court's primary concern should be the welfare of the people of the county.

"Why should we subsidize AP&L with these bonds...create monsters like Love Canal? Why does such a wealthy company demand we help them?"

He said the waste disposal was AP&L's problem, "not ours," and was a "hazard of their doing business. The bonds are not of the people, by the

Please see COURT on Page 3

people or for the people...they are for AP&L.

"It is the shareholders' risk, not ours. The construction will produce jobs for outside interests, not for local people. Big business and retail merchants will benefit, not you and I."

'Compromising lives'

"We are compromising the lives of our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren for an unknown number of years," said Walter Hartsfield of the plans for construction of the low-level radioactive waste storage facility. Hartsfield is a teacher, chairman of the Pope County Republican Party, member of the Pope County Election Commission and an unsuccessful candidate for the state House of Representatives.

"I don't believe the people should subsidize AP&L. We need dialogue between AP&L and the county. We are providing dollars to build a system that will kill millions of people hundreds and thousands of years

Responding to questions by Hartsfield and Clark, the Nuclear One general manager said no spent fuel rods (uranium) or high-level waste will be stored in the building.

Levine said all material to be stored will be dry, that all material with water will be processed and be dry when stored. He stressed that the facility is not a nuclear waste dump, that it is for temporary storage of low-level radioactive waste, that it will be an above ground building and no burial of waste is involved.

Hartsfield asked if any spent fuel rods are stored at Nuclear One. Levine said they were, that Nuclear One was designed and licensed to store spent fuel.

Responding to questions from Gene Rankin and Clyde Kilburn, justices of the peace, Levine said only low-level waste from Nuclear One would be stored at the facility. He said that the waste would be compacted/compressed and stored and eventually shipped off to an approved site and buried.

\$5 million building

Of the \$10 million in Act 9 bonds, about \$5 or \$6 million would be used for construction of the low-level radioactive waste storage building.

The remaining funds would be used for construction of start-up boiler facilities including boiler controls, burner management systems, emission monitoring and dispersion equipment and related facilities for a new start-up boiler at Nuclear One.

Levine said Nuclear One has been shipping its low-level radioactive waste to disposal sites in South Carolina and Washington. However, he said federal law will keep Nuclear One from shipping its waste to the sites by the end of this year.

Earlier this year, AP&L officials said the building would be constructed at Nuclear One to tem-

porarily hold low-level radioactive waste material pending development of a regional site for its disposal.

"Presently we store this material, which consists of resins, filters and general trash items, in a prefabricated building prior to shipping it to...South Carolina and Washington," said John Griffin, AP&L senior vice president for energy supply.

The new regional site is expected to be operational by the early 1990s. Griffin said the building will be constructed so it can be converted to other uses — such as office or warehouse space — once the regional site is operational.

Arkansas is a member of a regional compact which also includes Louisiana, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Kansas.