



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

September 18, 1990

Docket No. 50-281

Mr. W. L. Stewart
Senior Vice President - Nuclear
Virginia Electric and Power Company
5000 Dominion Blvd.
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Dear Mr. Stewart:

SUBJECT: SURRY UNIT 2 - REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM 10 CFR PART 50, APPENDIX J, SECTION III.D.3 REGARDING TYPE C LEAK RATE TEST INTERVAL

On September 14, 1990, Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO), in accordance with 10 CFR 50.12, requested an exemption from the Type C primary containment local leak rate testing requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.D.3 until June 30, 1991. This Section requires, in part, periodic testing of isolation barriers (valves) associated with certain containment penetrations. The interval between leak rate tests is not to exceed two years. A recent quality assurance audit of the Surry Inservice Inspection program revealed that VEPCO's implementation of the Type C test program does not satisfy this test interval requirement. VEPCO has requested exemption from this requirement so that the required testing on certain containment isolation valves can be performed during the 1991 Surry Unit 2 refueling outage, which is in excess of the maximum allowed two-year interval which expires on September 18, 1990.

The NRC is temporarily waiving the requirement that Surry, Unit 2 comply with the Type C test interval specified in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.D.3. This waiver will remain in effect from September 18, 1990 through September 27, 1990, at which time the NRC staff will have made a finding on VEPCO's September 14, 1990 request for exemption. This waiver is based on the following considerations.

1. VEPCO projects the total leakage from all 122 Type C valves will be 92.521 standard cubic feet per hour (SCFH) on June 30, 1991. The subject valves are stated to be leak-tight and in good material condition and the projected leakage is much less than the permitted 168 SCFH allocated by VEPCO's Appendix J program for Type C valves. Therefore, containment leakage assumptions in accident analyses are not expected to be affected for the few days while this waiver is in effect for only 76 of the 122 valves.
2. VEPCO's Local Leak Rate Testing Program procedures, methodology and modification procedures are acceptable and the test history on the subject valves has been good. Thus, there is reasonable assurance of continued satisfactory valve performance.
3. VEPCO identified this problem through an audit of their Inservice Inspection Program, has acted promptly to inform the NRC, and has submitted detailed bases and justification for their exemption request. This waiver provides VEPCO temporary relief while the NRC staff completes its evaluation of VEPCO's request.

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In summary, this letter grants VEPCO a temporary waiver from the test interval requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.D.3 as they relate to the Surry Power Station, Unit 2. This waiver is effective on September 18, 1990 and will remain in effect through September 27, 1990, at which time the NRC will have made a finding on VEPCO's September 14 request for exemption.

Sincerely,

(Original Signed By)

Steven A. Varga, Director
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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