

February 1995

Mr. Jerry W. Yelverton
Vice President, Operations ANO
Entergy Operations, Inc.
Route 3 Box 137G
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

SUBJECT: ARKANSAS NUCLEAR ONE, UNIT NO. 1, EXEMPTION TO 10 CFR PART 50,
APPENDIX J (TAC NO. M90739)

Dear Mr. Yelverton:

By letter dated November 8, 1994, Entergy Operations, Inc. requested an exemption from 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Primary Reactor Containment Leakage Testing for Water-Cooled Power Reactors, for Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1. The requested exemption would provide a one-time interval extension for performance of the next containment integrated leak rate test (ILRT).

The requested exemption would change existing requirements that require two ILRTs at ANO-1 during two successive refueling outages. The exemption would enable Entergy Operations, Inc. to delete one test and extend the interval to the next ILRT from 34 to 53 months. With this extension, the next ILRT would coincide with the end of the inservice inspection/inservice testing interval.

The Commission has granted this exemption pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12. A copy of the Exemption is being forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:
George Kalman, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-313

Enclosure: Exemption

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 3, 1995

Mr. Jerry W. Yelverton
Vice President, Operations ANO
Entergy Operations, Inc.
Route 3 Box 137G
Russellville, Arkansas 72801

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Kalman".

George Kalman, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate IV-1
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-313

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cc w/encl: See next page

Mr. Jerry W. Yelverton
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Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1

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Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of)	
)	
ENTERGY OPERATIONS, INC.)	Docket No. 50-313
)	
(Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1))	

EXEMPTION

I.

Entergy Operations, Inc. (the licensee) is the holder of Operating License No. DPR-51, which authorizes operation of Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 1 (ANO-1). The operating license provides, among other things, that it is subject to all rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission now and hereafter in effect.

The facility consists of a pressurized water reactor at the licensee's site in Pope County, Arkansas.

II.

Section III.D.1(a) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 requires, "... a set of three Type A tests [Overall Integrated Containment Leakage Rate Tests, or ILRTs] shall be performed, at approximately equal intervals during each 10-year service period. The third test of each set shall be conducted when the plant is shutdown for the 10-year plant inservice inspections." By letter dated November 8, 1994, the licensee requested an exemption from this requirement of the Commission's regulations.

The NRC may grant exemptions from the requirements of the regulations, pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12, that (1) are authorized by law, will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety, and are consistent with the common

defense and security; and (2) present special circumstances. Section 50.12(a)(2) of 10 CFR Part 50 describes special circumstances as including cases that would not serve the underlying purpose of the rule or are not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule.

In its November 8, 1994, letter, the licensee also applied for an amendment to Facility Operating License No. DPR-51 to change related provisions of the ANO-1 Technical Specifications (TSs). The TS amendment request will be addressed as a separate action.

III.

The Type A test is defined in 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section II.F, as a "test intended to measure the primary reactor containment overall integrated leakage rate (1) after the containment has been completed and is ready for operation, and (2) at periodic intervals thereafter." A total of six Type A tests (ILRT) have been performed on the ANO-1 containment including the preoperational ILRT that was performed in 1973. Except for leakage detected by Type B and C tests, containment leakage rates have always been below the ANO-1 acceptance criteria. The requested exemption does not affect the performance of Type B and C leakage tests which are expected to detect the most probable sources of containment leakage.

In order to schedule the next ILRT (the third ILRT of this service period) such that it coincides with the 10-year inservice inspections, the licensee has requested a one-time exemption from the Appendix J requirements. The exemption would permit the licensee to perform the ILRT together with the 10-year inservice inspections that are scheduled during the thirteenth refueling outage. If performed during the thirteenth refueling outage, the third ILRT will not be completed until after the end of the current 10-year

service period. To comply with regulations as written, an ILRT would be required during the twelfth refueling outage to satisfy the requirement for three ILRTs during the 10-year service period and another ILRT would be required during the thirteenth refueling outage to satisfy the requirement for the third ILRT to be performed when the plant is shutdown for the 10-year inservice inspections.

The thirteenth refueling outage is currently scheduled for the summer of 1996 and an ILRT performed during this refueling outage would result in a test interval between the second and third ILRTs of approximately 53 months. If the ILRT were performed during the twelfth refueling outage, currently scheduled for early 1995, the interval between the second and third ILRTs would be approximately 34 months. In the absence of the exemption and related technical specification changes, the licensee would be required to perform ILRTs during both the twelfth and thirteenth refueling outages. A requirement to perform ILRTs during two consecutive refuelings is clearly beyond the intent of the regulations and given the satisfactory results of previous tests at ANO-1, there is little, if anything, to gain from two closely spaced tests.

For the reasons set forth above, the NRC staff concludes that this one-time relief from the requirement to perform the third ILRT within a 10-year service period is not significant in terms of complying with the intent of Appendix J, Section III.D.1(a). Accordingly, the staff finds that the performance of ILRTs during both the twelfth and thirteenth refueling outages would not result in a commensurate increase in the confidence of containment integrity. Therefore, the subject exemption request meets the special circumstances of 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2)(ii), in that in these particular circumstances, the fourth test is not necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of the rule.

On this basis, the NRC staff finds that the licensee has demonstrated that special circumstances are present as required by 10 CFR 50.12. Further the staff also finds that extending the schedule for the third ILRT to beyond the 10-year service period will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety.

IV.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), that this exemption is authorized by law and will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest. Therefore, the Commission hereby grants Entery Operations, Inc. an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Section III.D.1(a).

Pursuant to 10 CFR 51.32, the Commission has determined that the granting of this exemption will have no significant impact of the quality of the human environment (60 FR 6568).

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 3rd day of February 3, 1995.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Elinor G. Adensam, Deputy Director
Division of Reactor Projects III/IV
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation