



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

JUL 5 1985

Docket NO. 50-458

Mr. William J. Cahill, Jr.
Senior Vice President
River Bend Nuclear Group
Gulf States Utilities Company
Post Office Box 2951
Beaumont, Texas 77704
ATTN: Mr. J. E. Booker

Dear Mr. Cahill:

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM LEAK TESTING REQUIREMENTS -
RIVER BEND STATION

By letter dated May 15, 1985 (RBG-21,024) you requested an exemption from the provisions of paragraph III.D.2.(b)(ii) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50. This paragraph requires that the air lock be tested at the end of periods when containment integrity is not required and the air lock has been used. Specifically, at the end of such periods, the air lock is to be tested at P_a (peak calculated accident pressure).

As an alternative, you proposed to test the air lock seals rather than the air lock, at P_a and to test within 3 days of closing the air lock, instead of the requirements of paragraph III.D.2.(b)(ii). As justification for the exemption you noted that Appendix J paragraph III.D.2.(b)(iii) allows testing of air lock seals at P_a within 3 days of closing when containment integrity is required instead of overall air lock testing at P_a .

However, the requirements of paragraph III.D.2.(b)(iii) were introduced into Appendix J to avoid repeated testing of the air lock when the air lock is used frequently and when containment integrity is required. Furthermore, during the period when containment integrity is required, the use of the air lock follows stringent administrative procedures by authorized personnel. Moreover, during periods when containment integrity is not required, frequent use of the air lock with less stringent administrative procedures can occur, and the probability of damage to the air lock is therefore increased.

10 CFR 50.12(a) states that exemptions from the provisions of 10 CFR Part 50 may be granted upon a showing that the exemption is authorized by law, will not endanger life and property or the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest. We have reviewed your request and have determined

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that you have not provided adequate justification or identified a need for the proposed exemption. The proposed exemption is therefore denied. If you subsequently identify additional information or a changed circumstance which you consider material to this request, you may bring that information to our attention and request that we reconsider this decision.

Sincerely,


Hugh V. Thompson, Jr., Director
Division of Licensing

cc: See next page

Mr. William J. Cahill, Jr.
Gulf States Utilities Company

River Bend Nuclear Plant

cc:

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Executive Director
for Operations
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Arlington, Texas 76011

that you have not provided adequate justification or identified a need for the proposed exemption. The proposed exemption is therefore denied. If you subsequently identify additional information or a changed circumstance which you consider material to this request, you may bring that information to our attention and request that we reconsider this decision.

Sincerely,

Original Signature
Hugh L. Thompson, Jr.

Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., Director
Division of Licensing

cc: See next page

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