

Docket No. 50-286

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DEC. 12 1975

Mr. William J. Cahill, Jr.  
 Vice President  
 Consolidated Edison Company  
 of New York, Inc.  
 4 Irving Place  
 New York, New York 10003

Dear Mr. Cahill:

This letter is in regard to your request dated November 7, 1975, for exemption from certain requirements of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 relating to reduced pressure leak testing of the Indian Point Unit No. 3 containment.

Specifically, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. requests an exemption pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a) from those portions of Appendix J which relate to performance of a reduced pressure leak test: namely paragraphs III A.4(a)(1), III A.4(b)(1), III A.5(a) (1), and III A.5(b)(1). In support of this request it is stated that the successful performance of the preoperational peak pressure test verifies the acceptability of the Indian Point Unit No. 3 containment, and that the purpose of Appendix J has been satisfied through the demonstration of the containment's leak tightness. It was also stated that Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. desires to conduct future periodic leak tests at peak pressure.

We have reviewed your exemption request and determined that your request does not involve a significant hazards consideration. Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 requires, in part, the performance of preoperational leakage rate tests of the containment at the calculated peak containment internal pressure related to the design basis accident and at a reduced pressure. The purpose of the preoperational reduced pressure tests is to provide a correlation between the leakage rate determined by the peak pressure test and the leakage rate determined by the reduced pressure tests in order that future periodic tests of the containment at reduced pressure would provide useful information. In view of the fact that all future periodic tests of the Indian Point Unit No. 3 containment will be conducted at peak pressure, we conclude that the reduced pressure tests are not required.

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*MJ*

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Based on our evaluation of your exemption request and the bases for the request, we have determined that exemption for Indian Point Unit No. 3 from paragraphs III A.4(a)(1), III A.4(b)(1), III A.5(a)(1), and III A.5(b)(1) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50 will not endanger life or property or the common defense and security and is otherwise in the public interest. Accordingly, your request for exemption from these paragraphs is hereby granted.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by  
Ben C. Rusche

Ben C. Rusche, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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*We do not feel that  
low press. tests are  
required if they do  
high press test  
so ok*

DRL  
RSBoyd  
12/12/75

ONRR  
EGCase  
12/12/75

OFFICE	RL:LWR 1-1	RL:LWR 1-1	TR:CSB	OELD	RL:AD LWR 1-1	ONRR
SURNAME	RDP RDP;pv	DBV DBV;assallo	RLTedesco	FSG FSG;Gray	RCDeYoung	BCRusche
DATE	12/12/75	12/12/75	12/12/75	12/12/75	12/12/75	12/12/75

Consolidated Edison Company  
of New York, Inc.

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cc: (Continued)

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