

## B 3.6 CONTAINMENT SYSTEMS

### B 3.6.1 Containment

#### BASES

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**BACKGROUND** The containment is a free standing steel pressure vessel surrounded by a reinforced concrete reactor building. The containment vessel, including all its penetrations, is a low leakage steel shell designed to contain the radioactive material that may be released from the reactor core following a design basis Loss of Coolant Accident (LOCA). Additionally, the containment vessel and reactor building provide shielding from the fission products that may be present in the containment atmosphere following accident conditions.

The containment vessel is a vertical cylindrical steel pressure vessel with hemispherical dome and a flat circular base. It is completely enclosed by a reinforced concrete reactor building. An annular space exists between the walls and domes of the steel containment vessel and the concrete reactor building to provide for the collection, mixing, holdup, and controlled release of containment out leakage. Ice condenser containments utilize an outer concrete building for shielding and an inner steel containment for leak tightness.

Containment piping penetration assemblies provide for the passage of process, service, sampling, and instrumentation pipelines into the containment vessel while maintaining containment integrity. The reactor building provides shielding and allows controlled release of the annulus atmosphere under accident conditions, as well as environmental missile protection for the containment vessel and Nuclear Steam Supply System.

The inner steel containment and its penetrations establish the leakage limiting boundary of the containment. Maintaining the containment OPERABLE limits the leakage of fission product radioactivity from the containment to the environment. SR 3.6.1.1 leakage rate requirements comply with 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, Option B (Ref. 1), as modified by approved as above exemptions.

The isolation devices for the penetrations in the containment boundary are a part of the containment leak tight barrier. To maintain this leak tight barrier:

- a. All penetrations required to be closed during accident conditions are either:

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### BACKGROUND (continued)

1. capable of being closed by an OPERABLE automatic containment isolation system, or
  2. closed by manual valves, blind flanges, or de-activated automatic valves secured in their closed positions, except as provided in LCO 3.6.3, "Containment Isolation Valves";
- b. Each air lock is OPERABLE, except as provided in LCO 3.6.2, "Containment Air Locks";
  - c. All equipment hatches are closed and sealed; and
  - d. The sealing mechanism associated with a penetration (e.g., welds, bellows, or O-rings) is OPERABLE.
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### APPLICABLE SAFETY ANALYSES

The safety design basis for the containment is that the containment must withstand the pressures and temperatures of the limiting Design Basis Accident (DBA) without exceeding the design leakage rates.

The DBAs that result in a challenge to containment OPERABILITY from high pressures and temperatures are a loss of coolant accident (LOCA) and a steam line break (Ref. 2). In addition, release of significant fission product radioactivity within containment can occur from a LOCA. In the DBA analyses, it is assumed that the containment is OPERABLE such that, for the DBAs involving release of fission product radioactivity, release to the environment is controlled by the rate of containment leakage. The containment was designed with an allowable leakage rate of 0.3% of containment air weight per day (Ref. 3). This leakage rate, used in the evaluation of offsite doses resulting from accidents, is defined in 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, Option B (Ref. 1), as  $L_a$ : the maximum allowable containment leakage rate at the calculated peak containment internal pressure ( $P_a$ ) resulting from the limiting design basis LOCA. The allowable leakage rate represented by  $L_a$  forms the basis for the acceptance criteria imposed on all containment leakage rate testing.  $L_a$  is assumed to be 0.3% per day in the safety analysis at  $P_a = 14.8$  psig (Ref. 3). Satisfactory leakage rate test results are a requirement for the establishment of containment OPERABILITY.

The containment satisfies Criterion 3 of 10 CFR 50.36 (Ref. 4).

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LCO Containment OPERABILITY is maintained by limiting leakage to  $\leq 1.0 L_a$ , except prior to the first startup after performing a required Containment Leakage Rate Testing Program leakage test. At this time, the applicable leakage limits must be met.

Compliance with this LCO will ensure a containment configuration, including equipment hatches, that is structurally sound and that will limit leakage to those leakage rates assumed in the safety analysis.

Individual leakage rates specified for the containment air lock (LCO 3.6.2), purge valves with resilient seals, and reactor building bypass leakage (LCO 3.6.3) are not specifically part of the acceptance criteria of 10 CFR 50, Appendix J. Therefore, leakage rates exceeding these individual limits only result in the containment being inoperable when the leakage results in exceeding the overall acceptance criteria of  $1.0 L_a$ .

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APPLICABILITY In MODES 1, 2, 3, and 4, a DBA could cause a release of radioactive material into containment. In MODES 5 and 6, the probability and consequences of these events are reduced due to the pressure and temperature limitations of these MODES. Therefore, containment is not required to be OPERABLE in MODE 5 to prevent leakage of radioactive material from containment. The requirements for containment during MODE 6 are addressed in LCO 3.9.4, "Containment Penetrations."

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## ACTIONS

### A.1

In the event containment is inoperable, containment must be restored to OPERABLE status within 1 hour. The 1 hour Completion Time provides a period of time to correct the problem commensurate with the importance of maintaining containment OPERABLE during MODES 1, 2, 3, and 4. This time period also ensures that the probability of an accident (requiring containment OPERABILITY) occurring during periods when containment is inoperable is minimal.

### B.1 and B.2

If containment cannot be restored to OPERABLE status within the required Completion Time, the plant must be brought to a MODE in which the LCO does not apply. To achieve this status, the plant must be brought to at least MODE 3 within 6 hours and to MODE 5 within

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ACTIONS (continued)

36 hours. The allowed Completion Times are reasonable, based on operating experience, to reach the required plant conditions from full power conditions in an orderly manner and without challenging plant systems.

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SURVEILLANCE  
REQUIREMENTS

SR 3.6.1.1

Maintaining the containment OPERABLE requires compliance with the visual examinations and leakage rate test requirements of the Containment Leakage Rate Testing Program. Failure to meet specific leakage limits for the air lock, secondary containment bypass leakage path, and purge valve with resilient seals (as specified in LCO 3.6.2 and LCO 3.6.3) does not invalidate the acceptability of the overall containment leakage determinations unless the specific leakage contribution to overall Type A, B, and C leakage causes one of these overall leakage limits to be exceeded. As left leakage prior to the first startup after performing a required Containment Leakage Rate Testing Program leakage test is required to be  $< 0.6 L_a$  for combined Type B and C leakage, and  $\leq 0.75 L_a$  for Option B for overall Type A leakage. At all other times between required leakage rate tests, the acceptance criteria is based on an overall Type A leakage limit of  $\leq 1.0 L_a$ . At  $\leq 1.0 L_a$  the offsite dose consequences are bounded by the assumptions of the safety analysis. SR Frequencies are as required by the Containment Leakage Rate Testing Program. These periodic testing requirements verify that the containment leakage rate does not exceed the leakage rate assumed in the safety analysis.

The Surveillance is modified by three Notes.

Note 1 requires that the space between each dual-ply bellows assembly on containment penetrations between the containment building and the annulus be vented to the annulus during each Type A test.

Note 2 requires that following each Type A test, the space between each dual-ply bellows assembly be subjected to a low pressure leak test with no detectable leakage. Otherwise, the assembly must be tested with the containment side of the bellows assembly pressurized to  $P_a$  and meet the requirements of SR 3.6.3.8 (bypass leakage requirements).

Note 3 allows penetrations M372 and M373 to be tested without draining the glycol-water mixture from the associated diaphragm valves (NF-288A, NF-233B and NF-234A) as long as not leakage is indicated. This test may be used in lieu of 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, Option B as defined

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SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS (continued)

in ANSI/ANS 56.8-1994 Section 3.3.5 (Test Medium). The required test pressure and interval are not changed.

All test leakage rates shall be calculated using observed data converted to absolute values. Error analysis shall also be performed to select a balanced integrated leakage measurement system.

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REFERENCES

1. 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, Option B.
2. UFSAR, Chapter 15.
3. UFSAR, Section 6.2.
4. 10 CFR 50.36, Technical Specifications, (c)(2)(ii).
5. UFSAR, Table 18-1.
6. McGuire License Renewal Commitments MCS-1274.00-00-0016, Section 4.8, Containment Leak Rate Testing Program.