

DEC 29 1981

Docket No. 50-281

Mr. R. H. Leasburg, Vice President  
Nuclear Operations  
Virginia Electric and Power Company  
Post Office Box 26666  
Richmond, Virginia 23261



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Dear Mr. Leasburg:

By letter dated October 29, 1981, as supplemented November 30, 1981, you requested an exemption from the requirements of Appendix J (III.A.6.b) for Surry Power Station, Unit No. 2.

These requirements are as follows:

"If two consecutive periodic Type A tests fail to meet the acceptance criteria, a Type A test shall be performed at each plant shutdown for refueling or approximately every 18 months, whichever occurs first, until two consecutive Type A tests meet the acceptance criteria."

Your basis for requesting the exemption was that the 1976 test was classified a failure because the 1971 proposed Appendix J was used and that the 1980 test failure was due to a construction related deficiency. You believe that these failures were technically insignificant and that, with an appropriate corrective action plan, the containment capability would not be compromised by the one time exemption from the Appendix J requirements.

The purpose of the Appendix J requirement in III.A.6.b is to encourage licensees to demonstrate that containment integrity is maintained during reactor operation. By failing to do so, more frequent testing is required. Based on our review of the 1976 and 1980 Type A tests for Surry Station, Unit No. 2, we conclude that both the 1976 and 1980 Type A tests should be considered failures. Consequently, your request for exemption is denied.

Sincerely,

Original signed by  
Darrell G. Eisenhut

Darrell G. Eisenhut, Director  
Division of Licensing

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OFFICE	ORB#1:DL	ORB#1:DL	AD/OR:DL	D/DL	ORB#1:DL		
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