

PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC COMPANY

NUCLEAR GROUP HEADQUARTERS

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June 11, 1993

Docket No. 50-278

License Nos. DPR-56

STATION SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Unit 3
Request for Exemption from 10 CFR 50, Appendix J
Type B and C Test Intervals

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 10 CFR 50.12(a), Philadelphia Electric Company (PECo) requests exemption from the two year test interval for Type B and C leak rate tests required by 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, Sections III.D.2(a) and III.D.3. Attachment 1 contains a discussion of the specific exemptions and the necessary justification in accordance with 10 CFR 50.12(a). Attachment 2 contains the surveillance tests for which the exemption would apply.

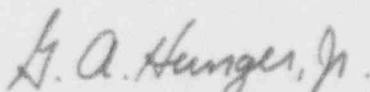
This exemption is requested on a one time only basis to support our current refueling outage schedule and avoid an extended reactor shutdown.

We request that this exemption be granted no later than August 15, 1993.

We note that Technical Specification Change Request (TSCR) 92-03, dated September 28, 1992, and supplemented in a letter dated June 7, 1993, requested, in part, that the surveillance testing interval for Type B and C tests be changed from 24 months to that required by 10 CFR 50, Appendix J. This TSCR was submitted to request changes to surveillance intervals to accommodate a 24 month operating cycle. We anticipate this TSCR will be approved prior to August 15, 1993, thus, another TSCR is not being submitted.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Very truly yours,



G. A. Hunger, Jr., Director
Licensing Section

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cc: T. T. Martin, Administrator, Region I, USNRC
USNRC Senior Resident Inspector, PBAPS

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ATTACHMENT 1

Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Unit 3

Request for Exemption

from 10 CFR 50, Appendix J

Type B and C Test Intervals

REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION

DISCUSSION AND JUSTIFICATION

Sections III.D.2(a) and III.D.3 of 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, require that Type B and C containment penetration leak rate tests be performed at intervals no greater than two years. Accordingly, Philadelphia Electric Company (PECo) requests a one time exemption from these requirements for the surveillance tests (STs) identified in Tables 1 and 2 of Attachment 2 for a period of 60 days. If granted, the 60 day extension will be applied to the current expiration date of each ST listed on Tables 1 and 2.

Exemptions are being requested in order to 1) avoid an extended reactor shutdown in order to comply with the two year testing interval, and 2) to allow for scheduling flexibility in an operating cycle of 24 months. Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Unit 3 is now utilizing a new core design which allows the intervals between reactor shutdowns for refueling to extend beyond the maximum allowable two year interval. Prior to the current operating cycle, local leak rate tests were performed in conjunction with an operating cycle of 18 months. Use of extended cycle core designs has been recognized as a growing trend in the industry as discussed in Generic Letter 91-04, "Changes in Technical Specification Surveillance Intervals to Accommodate a 24-Month Fuel Cycle," dated April 2, 1991.

Table 1 contains 11 of the 38 STs from which PECo is requesting exemption. These 11 Type B and C STs are due to be tested prior to shutdown of PBAPS, Unit 3 for the upcoming Cycle 9 refueling outage scheduled to occur no later than September 18, 1993. PECo requests exemption for these tests for a period of 60 days to avoid a premature reactor shutdown resulting from either isolation of necessary safety systems, or the need to access the drywell to test penetrations inaccessible during plant operations. Performance of these tests at the scheduled 24 month frequency would result in undue financial hardship with little or no compensating increase in the level of safety or quality.

For the 11 STs which will become due while the reactor is still at power, the earliest due date for any of these STs is September 14, 1993. This represents a maximum interval of only 4 days from the date that the ST will become due to the date that the reactor will be in Cold Shutdown. Extending the testing interval 60 days of which only 4 days will be during power operation, will not significantly impact the integrity of the containment boundary and, therefore, would not significantly impact the consequences of an accident or transient in the unlikely occurrence of such an event during the 4 days of power operation. This minimal impact on primary containment integrity has been further reduced through a large margin in primary containment integrity as discussed below.

The large margin in primary containment integrity can be demonstrated by review of the total Type B and C minimum pathway leak rates. The as-found value was 35,197 cc/min. and the as-left was 24,453 cc/min. as calculated for the PBAPS, Unit 3, Cycle 8, refueling outage in the Fall of 1991. This as-found and as-left leak rates represent a significant margin to the leak rate

value of 125,417 cc/min. (La, minimum pathway leakage) necessary for primary containment. The extension of the 24 month testing interval for 4 days for the 11 STs listed in Table 1 would not be expected to significantly decrease this margin, even considering the extended operating cycle, to the point that primary containment integrity would be violated.

Table 2 contains the other 27 STs which are Type B and C tests scheduled to be performed after the shutdown of PBAPS, Unit 3 (September 18, 1993). PECO requests exemption for these tests for a period of 60 days in order to obtain scheduling flexibility during the Cold Shutdown condition in which the need for primary containment integrity is not required resulting in minimal safety significance. This scheduling flexibility will ensure that performance of the STs will not impact critical path activities and result in an unnecessary increase in the length of the outage. Extending the length of the outage would result in undue financial hardship with little or no compensating increase in the level of safety or quality.

All surveillance tests associated with this exemption will be completed prior to restart from the upcoming PBAPS, Unit 3, Cycle 9 refueling outage.

10 CFR 50.12 allows the Commission to grant exemptions from the requirements of regulations contained in 10 CFR Part 50 provided that: (1) the exemption is authorized by law; (2) the exemption will not present an undue risk to the public health and safety; (3) the exemption is consistent with the common defense and security; and (4) special circumstances, as defined in 10 CFR 50.12(a)(2), are present. Each of these criteria are discussed below.

1. The Requested Exemption is Authorized by Law

If the criteria established in 10 CFR 50.12(a) are satisfied, as they are in this case, and if no prohibition of law exists to preclude the activities which would be authorized by the requested exemption, and there is no such prohibition, then the Commission is authorized by law to grant this exemption request.

2. The Requested Exemption Does Not Present an Undue Risk to the Public Health and Safety

As stated in 10 CFR 50, Appendix J, the purpose of the primary containment leak rate testing requirements is to ensure that leakage rates are maintained within the Technical Specification requirements and to assure that proper maintenance and repair is performed throughout the service life of the containment boundary components. The requested exemption is consistent with this intent in that it represent a one time only schedular extension of short duration (60 days). During this short duration, only 4 days will be at power operation for 11 STs that will exceed the 24 month interval. Twenty-seven STs will exceed the 24 month interval while in the Cold Shutdown condition. The required leak tests

will still be performed to assess compliance with Technical Specification requirements and to assure that any required maintenance or repair is performed. Extending the 2 year interval by a short duration will not significantly impact the integrity of the containment boundary and, therefore, will not significantly impact the consequences of an accident or transient in the unlikely event of such an occurrence during the 4 days of power operation. For the 27 STs which exceed the 24 month testing interval during Cold Shutdown, the need for primary containment is not required, thus, reducing the safety consequences of this extension.

3. The Requested Exemption Will Not Endanger the Common Defense and Security

Containment penetration leak rate testing is not considered in the common defense and security of the nation. Therefore, this exemption will not impact the common defense and security.

4. Special Circumstances are Present

10 CFR 50.12(a)(2) indicates that special circumstances include conditions under which compliance would result in hardship or other costs that are significantly in excess of those contemplated when the regulation was adopted. When the regulation was adopted, a presumption was made that a two year test interval would easily accommodate performance of these tests during an operating cycle. However, the development of new core designs have resulted in fuel cycles of 24 months, or longer when there are unplanned outages during the cycle. Performance of these tests at the scheduled 24 month frequency would result in undue financial hardship resulting from an extended shutdown of the reactor beyond that intended by the regulation with little or no compensatory increase in the level of safety or quality. Therefore, special circumstances are present.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This scheduler exemption would not result in the modification of any plant structures, systems or components. Neither would it result in a change in the way plant systems are operated. The requested exemption involves an administratively controlled surveillance test program and does not represent any increase in the maximum allowable routine or postulated post-accident releases or radioactive material to the environment or occupational exposures. Therefore, the environment would not be adversely impacted.

SCHEDULE

PECo requests that this exemption be granted no later than August 15, 1993.

Tables 1 and 2

ATTACHMENT 2

TABLE 1

3R09 SURVEILLANCE TESTS - EXPIRE BEFORE 9/18
SORTED BY LAST PERFORMANCE DATE

Page 1

ST NO.	DESCRIPTION AND VALVE NUMBERS	LAST PERFORMED	EXPIRATION DATE	PENETRATION
30.16.01	"A" INST TO D/W AO 3969A CHK33202A	09/15/91	09/14/93	N-22
30.36B.01	D/W BREATHING AIR HV E5476 HV E5007	09/15/91	09/14/93	N-102B,D
30.01A.01	MSIV AO 80C AO 86C	09/17/91	09/16/93	N-7C
30.03.01	CV 32A CV 32B CV 35A CV 35B CV 33 CV 36	09/17/91	09/16/93	N-38
30.10.08	TORUS COOLING & SPRAY MO 34B MO 38B MO 39B	09/17/91	09/16/93	N-210A, 211A
30.10.09	TORUS COOLING & SPRAY MO 34B MO 38B	09/17/91	09/16/93	N-210A, 211A
30.10.12	MO 71B	09/17/91	09/16/93	N-39A
30.01A.03	MAIN STEAM DRAIN MO 74 MO 77	09/18/91	09/17/93	N-8
30.01J.01	AO 316 AO 317	09/18/91	09/17/93	N-57
30.02E.01	AO 39 AO 40	09/18/91	09/17/93	N-41
30.07A.10	D/W HEAD ACCESS	09/18/91	09/17/93	N-4

Total 11

TABLE 2

3RD9 SURVEILLANCE TESTS - EXPIRE 9/18 OR LATER
SORTED BY LAST PERFORMANCE DATE

Page 1

ST NO.	DESCRIPTION AND VALVE NUMBERS	LAST PERFORMED	EXPIRATION DATE	PENETRATION
30.07A.11	RPV STABILIZER MANWAYS	09/19/91	09/18/93	N-110A-H
30.07B.13	D/W PURGE SUPPLY AO 3505 AO 3519 AO 3520 AO 3521A AO 3521B	09/19/91	09/18/93	N-25
30.07B.14	"O" RINGS AO 3519 AO 3505 AO 3520	09/19/91	09/18/93	N-25
30.07B.15	"O" RINGS AO 3521A AO 3521B	09/19/91	09/18/93	N-205B
30.10.13	MO 25B AO 46B AO163B	09/19/91	09/18/93	N-13A
30.13.08	RCIC VAC RELF 2"130G MO 5244	09/19/91	09/18/93	N-217B
30.61.01	TOPUS LEVEL INDICAT	09/19/91	09/18/93	N-206A,B
30.10.14	HEAD SPRAY BLANK FLANGE MO 32 MO 33	09/20/91	09/19/93	N-17
30.13.02	RCIC SUCTION MO-13-39 MO-13-41	09/20/91	09/19/93	N-225
30.16.03	B INST N2 TO DW & TRS VAC BKR	09/20/91	09/19/93	N-218A
30.20A.01	D/W FLOOR DRAIN SUMP AO 82 SO 83	09/20/91	09/19/93	N-18
30.35.01	RBCCW D/W ISOL MO 2374	09/20/91	09/19/93	N-23, 24
30.35.01	RBCCW D/W ISOL MO 2373	09/20/91	09/19/93	N-23, 24
30.36A.01	D/W SERV AIR MAN VLVS HV 30165 HV 30163	09/20/91	09/19/93	N-21
30.14A.01	TORUS WATER CU MO 71 MO 70	09/21/91	09/20/93	N-225
30.20B.01	D/W FLOOR DRAIN SUMP AO 94 AO 95	09/21/91	09/20/93	N-19
30.23.02	MO 23-57 MO 23-58	09/21/91	09/20/93	N-227
30.23.05	HPCI STOP CHK "O" RING CHK-12	09/21/91	09/20/93	N-214
30.07A.20	EXPANSION JOINTS	09/22/91	09/21/93	N-11, 12, 13A, 14, 16A, 17
30.07A.19	EXPANSION JOINTS	09/24/91	09/23/93	N-7A-D, 9A, 9B

TABLE 2 (Continued)

3RD9 SURVEILLANCE TESTS - EXPIRE 9/18 OR LATER
SORTED BY LAST PERFORMANCE DATE

Page 2

ST NO.	DESCRIPTION AND VALVE NUMBERS			LAST PERFORMED	EXPIRATION DATE	PENETRATION
30.06.03	MO 29B	6-28B		09/26/91	09/25/93	N-9B
30.06.01	MO 29A	6-28A		09/27/91	09/26/93	N-9A
30.06.02	MO 29A MO 2319	6-96A MO 38A		09/27/91	09/26/93	N-9A
30.06.04	MO-29B MO 1321	6-28B MO 126B	MO-38B	09/27/91	09/26/93	N-9B
30.10.11	CONT. SPRAY MO 26B	MO 31B		10/05/91	10/04/93	N-39A
30.14.02	HV-14-14 MO-14-12B	CHK-1413B AO14-15B		10/11/91	10/10/93	N-16A
30.10.01	S/D COOLING MO 10-17	MO 10-18		10/27/91	10/26/93	N-12
Total	27					