

21



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

Done

May 31, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Thomas M. Novak, Assistant Director
for Licensing, DL

FROM: R. Wayne Houston, Assistant Director
for Reactor Safety, DSI

SUBJECT: RIVER BEND STATION: REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM AIR LOCK
TESTING REQUIREMENTS OF APPENDIX J

In its letter dated May 15, 1985, the applicant has requested an exemption from paragraph III.D.2.(b)(ii) of Appendix J to 10 CFR Part 50. This paragraph requires air lock testing at the end of periods when the 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).

The applicant proposes 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).

The applicant's justification for the exemption is 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 .

In this regard, we note that the requirements of paragraph III.D.2.(b)(iii) were introduced into Appendix J to avoid multiple 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. However, during periods when containment integrity is not required, frequent use of the air lock with less stringent administrative procedures can occur.

Therefore, we find the applicant's request for an exemption from the requirements of paragraph III.D.2(b)(ii) to be unacceptable and should be denied.

R. Wayne Houston
R. Wayne Houston, Assistant Director
for Reactor Safety, DSI

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B/19