

D850611

June 11, 1985

Mr. William J. Dircks
Executive Director for Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Dircks:

SUBJECT: ACRS ACTION ON THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO APPENDIX J OF
 10 CFR 50 AND THE RELATED REGULATORY GUIDE

During its 302nd meeting, June 6-8, 1985, the ACRS considered the proposed revisions to Appendix J of 10 CFR Part 50, "Leak Tests for Primary and Secondary Containments of Light-Water-Cooled Nuclear Power Plants," and an associated draft Regulatory Guide (Task No. MS 021-5), "Containment System Leakage Testing." We recommend that these documents be issued for public comment at this time.

Although we believe that the basis for limiting leakage from containments and the requirements for leak testing need to be reconsidered in the light of research on severe accidents and source terms, we believe that the development of significant and well-considered changes to Appendix J will require several years, and thus believe that publication of the currently proposed revisions need not be delayed.

We believe that the public comments on these proposals will provide a better basis for deciding whether this interim revision to the regulations will indeed be a worthwhile and cost-effective improvement.

We wish to again review these proposed revisions once public comments have been received and responses to them have been prepared by the NRC Staff.

Sincerely,

David A. Ward
Chairman

References:

1. Proposed Revisions to Appendix J of 10 CFR Part 50, "Leak Tests for Primary and Secondary Containments of Light-Water-Cooled Nuclear Power Plants," Draft E4, dated April 17, 1985
2. Proposed Regulatory Guide (Task No. MS 021-5), "Containment System Leakage Testing," Draft D4, dated May 31, 1985

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