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May 1, 1995

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AEP:NRC:0508AJ

Secretary
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attn: Docketing and Service Branch

Gentlemen:

DOCKET NUMBER
PROPOSED RULE PR 50
(60 FR 9634)

Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2
COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED RULES, PRIMARY REACTOR CONTAINMENT
LEAKAGE TESTING FOR WATER-COOLED POWER REACTORS
FEDERAL REGISTER/VOL. 60, NO. 34

The purpose of this letter is to provide comments regarding the subject proposed rulemaking. In evaluating the proposed rule, we have also reviewed and hereby endorse the comments prepared by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI). In that regard, we believe that the proposed amendments to Appendix J of 10 CFR 50 will lead to a substantial and supportable reduction in the frequency of containment system and component testing. We would, however, like to draw particular attention to two issues of concern that are addressed in the NEI comments and which we feel should be reconsidered prior to issuing the final rule.

1. Reconsider the requirement to change Technical Specifications due to the rule change. Requiring separate Technical Specification amendments prior to licensee implementation of performance based criteria will place an unnecessary administrative burden on both the NRC and the licensees to implement a program that was designed to eliminate prescriptive requirements in the first place. A simple notification to the NRC regarding the Appendix J option that a licensee chooses to utilize should be sufficient and traceable because it will be part of the individual licensee's docket, and;
2. Reconsider the requirement to perform containment visual inspections at shorter intervals than recommended for the Type A test. The NRC analysis (Draft NUREG-1493) concluded that Type A tests, including the visual inspections, are burdensome and yield insignificant safety benefits. Therefore, the proposed requirement to continue performance of such examinations three times every ten years seems unnecessary to reasonably assure public health and safety.

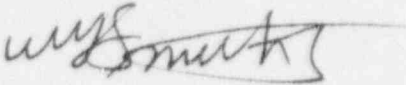
Secretary

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We appreciate this opportunity to offer our comments on the proposed amendments to Appendix J of 10 CFR 50.

Sincerely,

for 
E. E. Fitzpatrick
Vice President

sah

cc: A. A. Blind
G. Charnoff
J. B. Martin - Region III
NFEM Section Chief
NRC Resident Inspector - Bridgman
J. R. Padgett