

HQ

December 29, 1999

EA 99-325
EA 99-318

Mr. Michael J. Colomb
Site Executive Officer
New York Power Authority
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant
Post Office Box 41
Lycoming, New York 13093

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 05000333/99009; WHITE FINDING

Dear Mr. Colomb:

On November 29, 1999, the NRC completed an inspection at the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant. The results of this inspection were discussed on December 14, 1999, with Mr. Lindsey and other members of your staff. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

This inspection was an examination of activities conducted under your license as they relate to safety and compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and with the conditions of your license. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of a selected examination of procedures and representative records, observations of activities, and interviews with personnel.

The report discusses three issues of very low risk significance as well as one of a low to moderate risk significance. The issues of very low safety significance have been entered into your corrective action program and are discussed in the summary of findings and in the body of the attached inspection report. These issues, (1) the failure to identify conditions adverse to quality associated with the high pressure coolant injection (HPCI) system, (2) the failure to perform a 50.59 analysis for long-term operations with the reactor water level control system in single element control mode vice three element control mode as specified in the final safety analysis report, and (3) inadequate test control associated with the post maintenance testing of the HPCI system, were determined to involve violations of NRC requirements, but because of the low safety significance the violations were not cited.

The issue of a low to moderate risk significance involving HPCI system test inadequacies appears to be an apparent violation of NRC requirements. As described in Section 1R03.2 of this report, your surveillance testing for the HPCI system was inadequate for monitoring HPCI governor control system performance due to the failure to incorporate some important vendor recommendations. This failure allowed HPCI governor control system degradation to go unnoticed until an actual failure of the HPCI system occurred during the October 14, 1999, plant scram. This issue was assessed using the applicable SDP and was preliminarily determined to be White, i.e., an issue with some increased importance to safety, which may require additional

NRC inspection. The issue has a low to moderate risk significance because HPCI is an important mitigating system during a loss of offsite power event, and it is likely that the system would not have been able to perform the intended function during a period greater than 30 days.

Although we believe that we have sufficient information to make our final significance determination for the HPCI system issue, we are giving you the opportunity to send us your position on the finding's significance and the bases for your position in writing. Also, please inform us if you would like to schedule a regulatory conference to discuss your evaluation and any differences with the NRC evaluation. Accordingly, no enforcement is presently being issued for this inspection finding. Please contact John Rogge at 610-337-5146 within 10 days of the date of this letter to inform the NRC of your intentions. If we have not heard from you in writing or regarding a conference within 14 days, we will continue with our significance determination and enforcement decision, and you will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

A. Randolph Blough, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 05000333

Enclosure: Inspection Report 05000333/99009

cc w/encl:

C. D. Rappleyea, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
E. Zeltmann, President and Chief Operating Officer
R. Hiney, Executive Vice President for Project Operations
J. Knubel, Chief Nuclear Officer and Senior Vice President
H. P. Salmon, Jr., Vice President of Engineering
W. Josiger, Vice President - Special Activities
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G. C. Goldstein, Assistant General Counsel
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G. T. Goering, Consultant, New York Power Authority
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F. William Valentino, President, New York State Energy Research
and Development Authority
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