

December 29, 2000

Mr. Michael Kansler
Sr. Vice President and Chief Operating
Officer
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

SUBJECT: BASIS FOR THE NRC STAFF ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL FOR
INSPECTION DEFERMENT OF OVERLAY REPAIRED WELDS AT
JAMES A. FITZPATRICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT (TAC NO. MB0196)

Dear Mr. Kansler:

By letter dated August 16, 2000, Mr. Michael J. Colomb, Site Executive Officer, informed the NRC staff of the Power Authority of the State of New York (PASNY) plan to defer inspection on ten (10) overlay repaired welds as required by Generic Letter (GL) 88-01 at James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant (JAFNPP). Specifically, Mr. Colomb proposed not to inspect the following ten overlay repaired welds during the current refuel outage (RO) 14: 12-02-2-18, 12-02-2-19, 28-02-2-33, 28-02-2-53, 22-02-2-63, 12-02-2-64, 28-02-2-92, 28-02-2-116, N-8A-SE-2, 4-02-2-118. Mr. Colomb's proposed inspection deferral is based on the guidance provided in an NRC letter dated June 17, 1999, from Jack R. Strosnider, Director, Division of Engineering, to Carl Terry, BWRVIP Chairman.

On November 21, 2000, PASNY's ownership interest in FitzPatrick was transferred to Entergy Nuclear FitzPatrick, LLC, to possess and use FitzPatrick and to Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. to possess, use and operate FitzPatrick. The U.S Nuclear Regulatory Commission would continue to review and act on all requests before the Commission which had been submitted by PASNY before the transfer. Accordingly, the staff continued its review of the technical basis provided in the August 16, 2000, submittal that informed the staff of the plan to defer inspection on the ten overlay repaired welds.

Based on GL 88-01 the overlay repaired welds are required to be inspected once every two refueling cycles. The referenced ten overlay repaired welds were originally scheduled to be inspected during the current RO 14. However, based on the guidance provided in the NRC letter dated June 17, 1999, the licensee may defer their scheduled inspection of the overlay repaired welds at JAFNPP when the following criteria are met:

- (1) The plant is operated in compliance with the EPRI [Electric Power Research Institute] water chemistry guidelines.
- (2) The overlay for which deferral is applied meets GL 88-01 or ASME [American Society of Mechanical Engineers] Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Case-504 (full structural overlay) as opposed to a temporary duty (leakage barrier) overlay, and

- (3) The overlay for which the deferral is applied must have been inspected at least two (2) times without IGSCC [intergranular stress-corrosion cracking] indications in the overlay. The two examinations include a baseline examination after overlay application and one examination that was completed after the overlay has been in service for at least one full fuel cycle.

The staff has reviewed Mr. Colomb's submittal and has determined that the water chemistry controls implemented in the JAFNPP and the overlay design and inspection history of the referenced overlay repaired welds meet the above criteria. Therefore, the staff concludes that the proposed deferment of the inspection of the referenced overlay repaired welds at JAFNPP is acceptable. For future inspection of the overlay repaired welds, the licensee should follow the NRC-approved guidance in the BWRVIP-75 report, "Technical Basis for Revisions to Generic Letter (GL) 88-01 Inspection Schedules," dated October 27, 1999.

The staff also notes that, in the JAFNPP Technical Specification (TS) Section 4.6, "Surveillance Requirements, Reactor Coolant System," Paragraph F.3 states the following:

"An Inservice Inspection Program for piping identified in the NRC Generic Letter 88-01 shall be implemented in accordance with NRC staff positions on schedules, methods, personnel, and sample expansion included in this Generic Letter, or in accordance with alternate measures approved by the NRC staff."

Therefore, no TS amendment is required for the proposed inspection deferment. If there are any questions with regard to this, please direct them to me at 301-415-1441 or e-mail at GSV@NRC.GOV.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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Docket No. 50-333

cc: See next page

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