

January 8, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Glenn W. Meyer, Chief
Projects Branch 3
Division of Reactor Projects

FROM: Richard A. Rasmussen, SRI /RA/
FitzPatrick, PB3, DRP

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO DAVID LOCHBAUM, UCS.

This afternoon I called Mr. David Lochbaum in response to his fax message (attached) dated January 8, 2001, which had been faxed to me at the FitzPatrick resident office. (The January 8, 2001 NRC Status Report had noted that the reactor power at FitzPatrick was at 60% due to intake cleaning.) In his message Mr. Lochbaum questioned why FitzPatrick has made similar reports over the past four years and the Nine Mile Point plants have not.

During the brief call Mr. Lochbaum and I discussed the following items:

Intake cleaning and how it could be scheduled around other plant evolutions.
Mr. Lochbaum cited another plant that performed cleaning during other planned down power events.

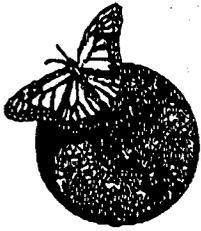
Why intake cleaning appears to be more of a challenge at FitzPatrick than Nine Mile. I informed him that this was an issue that the FitzPatrick engineering department was evaluating.

Some general differences between the three units.

We did not discuss reliability of the emergency cooling systems or the PI aspects of the down powers.

I asked Mr. Lochbaum if he wanted any further information related to this issue. He responded that the information provided in the phone call was adequate and that no further correspondence was needed.

Attachment: January 8, 2001, Fax Message from David Lochbaum



Union of Concerned Scientists

F A X M E S S A G E

TO: Richard Rasmussen, Senior Resident Inspector
FROM: Dave Lochbaum *DL*
DATE: January 8, 2001
NO. PAGES (including cover sheet): 1

Today's Plant Status Report indicates that FitzPatrick is at approximately 60 percent power. The report contains this comment: "REDUCED POWER FOR INTAKE CLEANING."

I have seen similar reports for FitzPatrick over the past four years, but do not recall seeing any such reports for Nine Mile Point Units 1 or 2. Since all three plants draw water from the same source, I suspect that their intake cleaning needs are virtually identical. Thus, the reason that FitzPatrick could be reporting intake cleaning evolutions more frequently could be explained by:

1. Niagara Mohawk could conduct intake cleaning such that their plants are back to full power before the snapshot that feeds into the NRC's status report.
2. Niagara Mohawk could combine intake cleaning with other activities requiring power reductions that get top billing on the NRC's status report.
3. FitzPatrick could have less effective intake screen washing and condenser tube cleaning processes that require more frequency supplement cleaning.

If the reason is related to Item (3) above, then the reliability of the emergency cooling systems may also be lower at FitzPatrick than at Nine Mile Point.

I would appreciate a call (202 223-6133) at your convenience to discuss the intake cleaning operations at FitzPatrick.

Thanks,

Dave Lochbaum
Nuclear Safety Engineer

Washington Office: 1707 H Street NW Suite 600 • Washington DC 20006-3919 • 202-223-6133 • FAX: 202-223-6182
Cambridge Headquarters: Two Brattle Square • Cambridge MA 02238-9105 • 617-547-5552 • FAX: 617-864-9405
Berkeley Office: 800 Shattuck Avenue Suite 203 • Berkeley CA 94704-1567 • 510-843-1872 • FAX: 510-843-3785

TOTAL P. 01