

Docket No.: 50-333

JAN. 30 1976

Power Authority of the State
of New York
ATTN: Mr. George T. Berry
General Manager and
Chief Engineer
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New York, New York 10019

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~~ARosenthal, ASLAB~~

Gentlemen:

The Commission has issued the enclosed Amendment No. 9 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-59 for the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant in accordance with your application dated January 26, 1976.

This amendment authorizes installation of plugs in the bypass flow holes of the lower core support plate.

Copies of the Safety Evaluation and the Federal Register Notice are also enclosed.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by

Robert W. Reid, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #4
Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosures:

1. Amendment No. 9
2. Safety Evaluation
3. Federal Register Notice

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Power Authority of the State
of New York

cc w/enclosures:

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

POWER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

AND

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

DOCKET NO. 50-333

JAMES A. FITZPATRICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

AMENDMENT TO FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

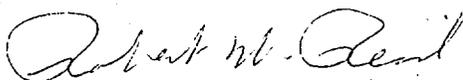
Amendment No. 9
License No. DPR-59

1. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has found that:
 - A. The application for amendment by the Power Authority of the State of New York and Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (the licensees) dated January 26, 1976, complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations set forth in 10 CFR Chapter I;
 - B. The facility will operate in conformity with the application, the provisions of the Act, and the rules and regulations of the Commission;
 - C. There is reasonable assurance (i) that the activities authorized by this amendment can be conducted without endangering the health and safety of the public, and (ii) that such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations;
 - D. The issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public; and
 - E. An environmental statement or negative declaration need not be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.
2. Accordingly, Facility Operating License No. DPR-59, as amended, is hereby further amended by adding a new Paragraph 2.C.(4) as follows:

"(4) The licensees are authorized to install plugs in the bypass flow holes of the core support plate in conformance with the licensees' submittal dated January 26, 1976. The reactor shall not be operated with plugs installed in the core support plate bypass holes without further authorization by the Commission."

3. The license amendment is effective as of the date of its issuance.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Robert W. Reid, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #4
Division of Operating Reactors

Date of Issuance: JAN. 30 1976

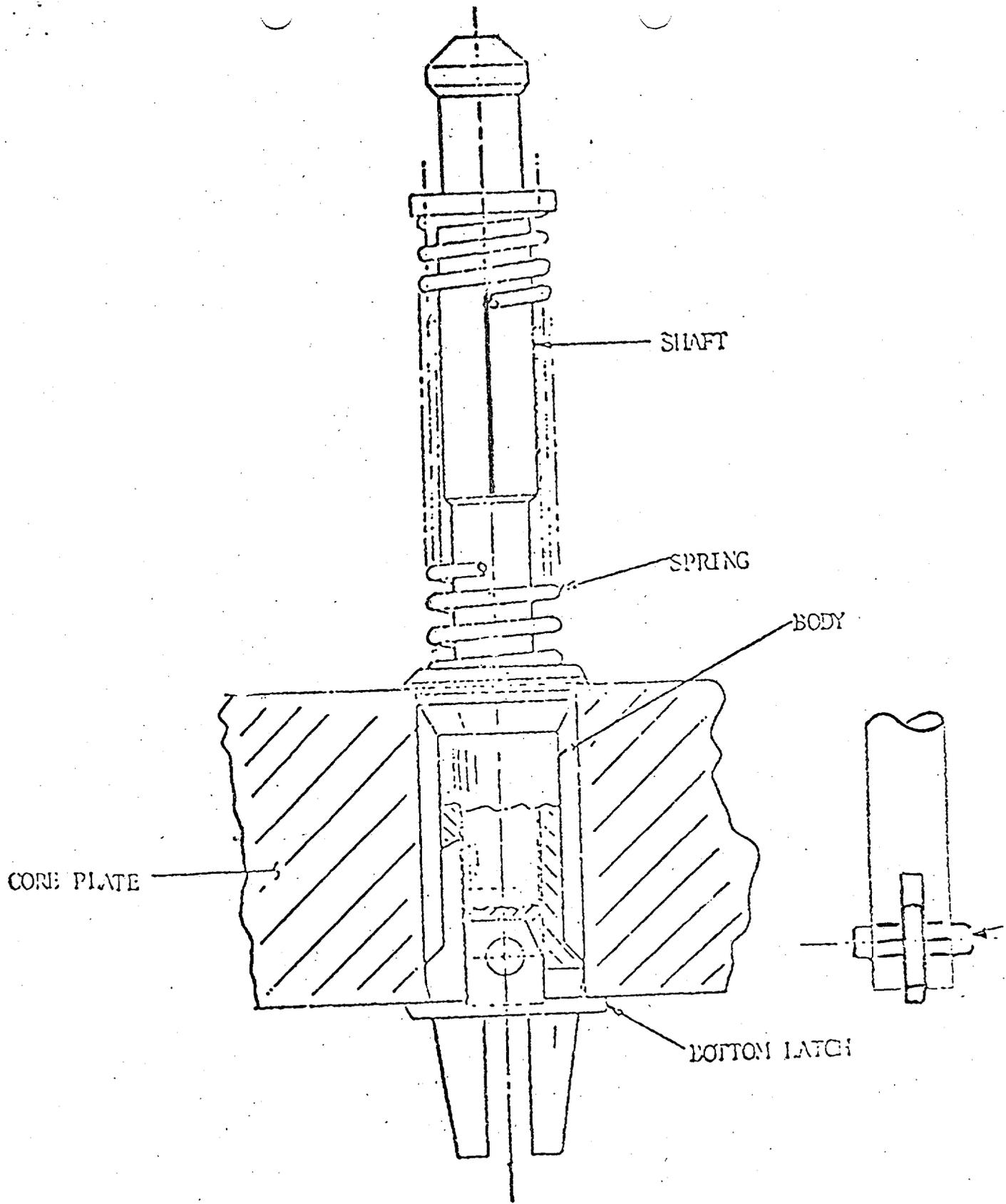


Figure 1 Plug Installed in Core Plate

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION

SUPPORTING AMENDMENT NO. 9 TO FACILITY LICENSE NO. DPR-59

POWER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

AND

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

JAMES A. FITZPATRICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

DOCKET NO. 50-333

Introduction

By letter dated January 26, 1976, the Power Authority of the State of New York proposed changes to Facility Operating License No. DPR-59, for the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant. The proposed changes involve plugging the bypass flow holes in the lower core support plate.

Discussion

The proposed installation of the core bypass flow plugs in the lower core support plate is designed to reduce flow-induced instrument tube - channel box interaction and thus prevent unacceptable channel box wear.

Evaluation

The plug consists of five basic parts, as shown in Figure 1. Identical plugs have previously been installed at Vermont Yankee, Pilgrim, Cooper and Duane Arnold. The body of the plug provides a means of guiding the device into the bypass flow holes as well as a shoulder to support the plug and form a seal against water flow. The shaft extends through the body. A knob is provided at the top of the shaft to provide a means of grabbing the plug during installation and extraction. At the bottom, the latch is attached to the shaft by a pin. The latch is free to rotate during installation. The spring acts against the body and shaft during normal operation to provide the force necessary to offset the pressure differential acting on the body.

During installation, the plug has its latch rotated 90 degrees from its installed position and withdrawn and locked in the body. The shaft is gripped by the installation tool, and the plug is inserted into the bypass flow holes. The body engages the rim of the hole. The shaft is pushed to its full extension, thus lowering and unlocking the latch below the underside of the core plate. The latch then rotates 90 degrees and bears on the bottom of the core plate. After insertion, the plug is pulled with about a 30-pound force to test the placement.

The plug can be removed by gripping the top of the shaft with an extracting tool and applying a force of about 500 pounds. The latch's legs will be plastically deformed and the entire plug withdrawn. The plugs previously installed at Vermont Yankee were removed with no abnormalities or loose pieces reported. The force required for removal varied from 500 to 1300 pounds.

Based on a review of the design, the installation methods, and the previously successful operating experience at Vermont Yankee, Pilgrim, and Duane Arnold, we conclude that the plugs can be installed without damage to core components, that they will not fail so as to result in loose parts in the core or result in unplugging of the bypass flow holes, and that they can be removed, if necessary, without damage to core components. Thus, the modification is reversible.

Accordingly, we conclude that the installation of the plugs is acceptable. Operation with plugged bypass holes is still under review and will be the subject to a separate licensing action.

We have determined that the amendment does not authorize a change in effluent types or total amounts nor an increase in power level and will not result in any significant environmental impact. Having made this determination, we have further concluded that the amendment involves an action which is insignificant from the standpoint of environmental impact and, pursuant to 10 CFR §51.5(d)(4), that an environmental statement, negative declaration, or environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with the issuance of this amendment.

This license amendment authorizes the licensee to install the plugs; however, this amendment does not authorize operation of the reactor with the plugs in place. The approval to operate with the plugs will be given when the license amendment approving the ECCS system as re-evaluated under 10 CFR 50 - Appendix K is issued.

Conclusion

We have concluded, based on the considerations discussed above, that:
(1) because the change does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of accidents previously considered and does not involve a significant decrease in a safety margin, the change does not involve a significant hazards consideration, (2) there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered by operation in the proposed manner, and (3) such activities will be conducted in compliance with the Commission's regulations and the issuance of this amendment will not be inimical to the common defense and security or to the health and safety of the public.

Date: JAN. 30 1978

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 50-333

POWER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

AND

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

NOTICE OF ISSUANCE OF AMENDMENT TO FACILITY
OPERATING LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has issued Amendment No. 9 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-59 issued to Power Authority of the State of New York and Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation for operation of the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant, located in Oswego County, New York. The amendment is effective as of its date of issuance.

The amendment authorizes installation of plugs in the bypass flow holes of the lower core support plate.

The application for the amendment complies with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's rules and regulations. The Commission has made appropriate findings as required by the Act and the Commission's rules and regulations in 10 CFR Chapter I, which are set forth in the license amendment. Prior public notice of this amendment is not required since the amendment does not involve a significant hazards consideration.

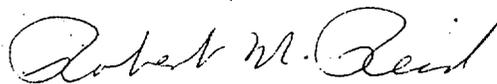
The Commission has determined that the issuance of this amendment will not result in any significant environmental impact and that pursuant to 10 CFR §51.5(d)(4) an environmental statement, negative declaration or environmental impact appraisal need not be prepared in connection with issuance of this amendment.

For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the application for amendment dated January 26, 1976 , and report number NEDO-(2) Amendment No. 9 to License No. DPR-59, and (3) the Commission's related Safety Evaluation. All of these items are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Oswego City Library, 120 East Second Street, Oswego, N.Y.

A copy of items (2) and (3) may be obtained upon request addressed to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Director, Division of Operating Reactors.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 30th date of January 1976.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Robert W. Reid, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #4
Division of Operating Reactors