

September 10, 1985

Docket No. 50-333

Mr. John C. Brons
Senior Vice President -
Nuclear Generation
Power Authority of the State
of New York
123 Main Street
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Mr. Brons:

Re: James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant

Enclosed is a copy of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for your information. This assessment relates to your May 2, 1985 request for exemption from certain requirements of Appendix J of 10 CFR Part 50.

The assessment has been forwarded to the Office of the Federal Register for publication.

Sincerely,

Original signed by/

Domenic B. Vassallo, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Licensing

Enclosure:
Assessment

cc w/enclosure:
See next page

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Mr. John C. Brons
Power Authority of the State of New York

James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear
Power Plant

cc:

Mr. Charles M. Pratt
Assistant General Counsel
Power Authority of the State
of New York
10 Columbus Circle
New York, New York 10019

Mr. Jay Dunkleberger
Division of Policy Analysis
and Planning
New York State Energy Office
Agency Building 2
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223

Resident Inspector's Office
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Post Office Box 136
Lycoming, New York 13093

Thomas A. Murley
Regional Administrator
Region I Office
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

Mr. Harold Glovier
Resident Manager
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear
Power Plant
Post Office Box 41
Lycoming, New York 13093

Mr. A. Klausman
Vice President - Quality Assurance
Power Authority of the State
of New York
10 Columbus Circle
New York, New York 10019

Mr. J. A. Gray, Jr.
Director - Nuclear Licensing - BWR
Power Authority of the State
of New York
123 Main Street
White Plains, New York 10601

Mr. George Wilverding, Chairman
Safety Review Committee
Power Authority of the State
of New York
123 Main Street
White Plains, New York 10601

Mr. Robert P. Jones, Supervisor
Town of Scriba
R. D. #4
Oswego, New York 13126

Mr. Leroy W. Sinclair
Power Authority of the State
of New York
10 Columbus Circle
New York, New York 10019

Mr. M. C. Cosgrove
Quality Assurance Superintendent
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear
Power Plant
Post Office Box 41
Lycoming, New York 13093

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSIONPOWER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORKDOCKET NO. 50-333ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ANDFINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC/the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of Appendix J of 10 CFR 50 to the Power Authority of the State of New York (PASNY/the licensee) for the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant located in Oswego County, New York.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTIdentification of Proposed Action:

The exemption would permit the licensee to perform the seal leakage test specified in Paragraph III.D.2(b)(iii) of Appendix J in lieu of the full airlock test specified in Paragraph III.D.2(b)(ii), prior to plant startup following a period of cold shutdown, provided that no maintenance was performed on the airlock during this period.

The Need for the Proposed Action:

The existing airlock doors are so designed that a full pressure test of an entire airlock can only be performed after strong backs (structural bracing) have been installed on the inner door. Strong backs are required because the pressure exerted on the inner door during the test is in a direction opposite to the pressure direction following a postulated accident and the locking mechanisms are not designed to withstand the reverse forces associated with the test pressure. Installation of the strong backs must

commence approximately 24 hours prior to establishing containment integrity. During this 24-hour period, approximately 1 hour is required to inspect the door seal and door seat surfaces; 3 hours are required to install strong backs; and 16 to 20 hours are required to pressurize the airlocks to the test pressure and to troubleshoot. This could delay plant startup by up to 24 hours. Furthermore, the licensee has estimated that the entire airlock test including the installation and removal of the strong backs, results in an expenditure of 18 hours and 0.15 man-rem compared with 0.5 hours and 0.025 man-rem for the seal leakage test.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action:

The periodic 6-month leak test of Paragraph III.D.2(b)(i) of Appendix J and the 3-day test requirements of Paragraph III.D.2(b)(iii) provide assurance that the airlock leakage rate will not be increased as a result of the airlock being opened during a period of cold shutdown when no maintenance has been performed. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with this proposed exemption.

With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves features located entirely within the restricted areas as defined in 10 CFR Part 20. It does not affect nonradiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative Use of Resources:

This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in

the Final Environmental Statement (construction permit and operating license) for the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant.

Agencies and Persons Consulted:

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

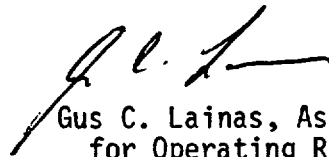
The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action, see the application for exemption dated May 2, 1985 which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., and at the Penfield Library, State University College of Oswego, Oswego, New York.

Dated at Bethesda, Maryland, this 10th day of September, 1985.

FOR THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION



Gus C. Lainas, Assistant Director
for Operating Reactors
Division of Licensing