

March 18, 2004

Mr. Michael Kansler
President
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

SUBJECT: JAMES A. FITZPATRICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT RE: REVIEW OF
PRELIMINARY ACCIDENT SEQUENCE PRECURSOR ANALYSIS OF
AUGUST 14, 2003, OPERATIONAL EVENT

Dear Mr. Kansler:

Enclosed for your review and comment is a copy of the preliminary Accident Sequence Precursor (ASP) Program analysis of an operational event which occurred at James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant in August 2003 (Enclosure 1). The event involved a reactor trip and loss of offsite power due to the August 14, 2003, electrical transmission grid blackout and was described in Licensee Event Report 333/03-001. The results of the preliminary ASP analysis indicate that this event is an accident precursor (i.e., conditional core damage probability $\geq 1 \times 10^{-6}$).

In assessing operational events, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff strives to make the ASP models as realistic as possible regarding the specific features and response of a given plant to various accident sequence initiators. We realize that licensees may have additional systems and emergency procedures, or other features at their plants that might affect the analysis. Therefore, we are providing you an opportunity to review and comment on the technical adequacy of the preliminary ASP analysis, including the depiction of plant equipment and equipment capabilities. Upon receipt and evaluation of your comments, we will revise the conditional core damage probability calculations where necessary to consider the specific information you have provided. The object of our review process is to provide as realistic an analysis of the significance of the event as possible.

In order for us to incorporate your comments, perform any required re-analysis, and prepare the final report of our analysis in a timely manner, you are requested to complete your review and to provide any comments within 60 calendar days from the date of this letter. As soon as our final analysis of this event has been completed, we will provide for your information the final precursor analysis and the resolution of your comments.

We have also enclosed information to facilitate your review (Enclosure 2). Enclosure 2 contains specific guidance for performing the requested review, identifies the criteria which we will apply to determine whether any credit should be given in the analysis for the use of licensee-identified additional equipment or specific actions in recovering from the event, and describes the specific information that you should provide to support such a claim.

M. Kansler

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This request is covered by the existing OMB clearance number (3150-0104) for NRC staff follow-up reviews of events documented in licensee event reports. Your response to this request is voluntary and does not constitute a licensing requirement.

The NRC staff is continuing to review the appropriate classification of these documents within our records management program, considering changes in our practices following the events of September 11, 2001. Pending a final determination, the enclosed analyses have been marked as sensitive information. Therefore, the staff has not made it publicly available. Please control the document accordingly. We will inform you if the classification of the document changes as a result of our ongoing assessments. If you believe that your response to this letter includes potentially sensitive information, please discuss the matter with me prior to submitting the information.

If you have any questions regarding the analysis, please contact me at 301-415-2901.

Sincerely,

/RA/

John P. Boska, Sr. Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-333

Enclosures: 1. Preliminary ASP Analysis (Sensitive - Not For Public Disclosure)
2. ASP Review Guidance

cc w/o Enclosure 1: See next page

M. Kansler

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PUBLIC (Letter and Enclosure 2 only)
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CBixler, RGN I
GVissing

GDemoss
SLittle

ADAMS ACCESSION NOs: Package ML040720305
Letter ML040720303
Enclosure 1 ML040580544
Enclosure 2 ML040720033

*see previous concurrence

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OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant

cc: w/o Enclosure 1

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FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant

cc: w/o Enclosure 1

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