

POWER AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
JAMES A. FITZPATRICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

DOCKET NO. 50-333

ATTACHMENT TO LER 80-026/03L-0

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During normal operation, a routine process computer printout of reactor thermal limits indicated that the Minimum Critical Power Ratio (MCPR) was in excess of the limits of Technical Specification Paragraph 3.1.B. MCPR values are displayed by the process computer in terms of the ratio of the most limiting MCPR value present in the core to the Technical Specification MCPR limit. Thus, when MCPR for any fuel type is at the limit the computer displays a value of 1.000 meaning at least one (1) core location is at the Technical Specification limit. In the case of the computer printout of concern, a value of 1.007 was displayed. No recent power, recirculation flow or control rod position changes had been made. Evaluation of LPRM data indicated that LPRM 44-37C had drifted. This drifting caused the plant process computer to indicate MCPR value in excess of the Technical Specification limits.

The LPRM was bypassed and another printout of core thermal limits was obtained revealing a MCPR value of 0.970 compared to a limit of equal to or less than 1.000. Replacement of the LPRM detectors is scheduled for the 1980 Refueling Outage. This action will remove LPRM 44-37C and a number of other detectors which have failed due to normal age and use. The event did not represent a significant hazard to the public health and safety.