

John C. Brons
Executive Vice President
Nuclear Generation

May 16, 1990
JPN-90-038

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant
Docket No. 50-333
Response to NRC Bulletin 90-02

REFERENCE: NRC Bulletin No. 90-02, "Loss of Thermal Margin Caused by
Channel Box Bow," dated March 20, 1990.

Dear Sir:

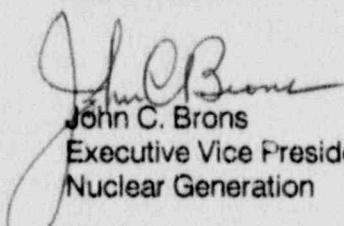
NRC Bulletin 90-02 requested that utilities which operate boiling water reactors (BWR) determine whether any channel boxes are being reused after their first bundle lifetime. If so, the utility should take immediate action to ensure that the effects of channel box bow on the critical power ratio (CPR) calculation are properly taken into account. In addition, utilities which use channel boxes for only a single bundle lifetime are requested to account for the effects of channel box bow in analyses supporting their next fuel reload.

The Authority does not reuse channel boxes after their first bundle lifetime at the FitzPatrick plant. The General Electric Company, the fuel vendor for the FitzPatrick plant, has developed a methodology to account for expected channel bow effects on CPR. The Authority will use this methodology which adjusts the operating CPR to account for channel bow.

The FitzPatrick plant is currently shutdown for the Reload 9/Cycle 10 refueling outage and is expected to start up in early June, 1990. The GE methodology will be implemented for Cycle 10 through adjustments to the fuel data bank in the FitzPatrick plant process computer. Since no approved methodology exists to account for channel bow, the Authority discussed its plans to implement the GE methodology with the NRC staff. The staff has agreed that this approach is acceptable pending completion of a formal review.

Should you or your staff have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. J. B. Elliners of my staff.

Very truly yours,


John C. Brons
Executive Vice President
Nuclear Generation

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**STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER**

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 15th day of May 1990.

Barbara Ann Taggart
Notary Public

BARBARA ANN TAGGART
NOTARY PUBLIC, State of New York
No. 4851437
Qualified in Putnam County
Commission Expires Jan. 27, 1992

cc: Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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King of Prussia, PA 19406

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