



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555-0001

February 22, 1994

Docket No. 50-333

Mr. William A. Josiger, Acting  
Executive Vice President,  
Nuclear Generation  
Power Authority of the State of  
New York  
123 Main Street  
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Mr. Josiger:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 93-03, "RESOLUTION OF ISSUES RELATED TO REACTOR VESSEL WATER LEVEL INSTRUMENTATION IN BWRs" - JAMES A. FITZPATRICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT (TAC NO. M86934)

On May 28, 1993, NRC Bulletin (NRCB) 93-03 was issued to all holders of operating licenses or construction permits for boiling water reactors (BWRs) with the exception of Millstone 1 and Big Rock Point. The NRCB requested licensees to take short-term compensatory measures within 15 days of the NRCB to ensure operators can identify and mitigate potential reactor water level errors. The NRCB also requested licensees to implement hardware modifications at the first cold shutdown after July 30, 1993, to ensure the level instrumentation system design is of high functional reliability for long-term operation. By letter dated July 30, 1993, the Power Authority of the State of New York (PASNY) responded to NRCB 93-03.

Your response stated that PASNY: (1) has implemented appropriate short-term compensatory measures; (2) will install the backfill modifications on the five reactor vessel instrumentation reference legs prior to startup from the next maintenance outage scheduled to begin on September 11, 1993; (3) will not make the modifications operable immediately, but will phase them in to reduce the probability of unanticipated transients; and (4) will implement the changes in accordance with the FitzPatrick modification process (10 CFR 50.59). By letter dated September 20, 1993, you revised your response to NRCB 93-03 and stated that PASNY: (1) will install the backfill modifications on all five instrumentation reference legs and complete prestartup testing during the stated 1993 maintenance outage; (2) will valve in and out of service backfill modifications as necessary for testing during startup and power operation; and (3) will place the backfill modifications in service and make them operational on the four narrow and wide range reference legs within 2 weeks of putting the main turbine on the line.

Based on the information provided in your letters dated July 30, 1993, and September 20, 1993, we consider your response to NRCB 93-03 acceptable. Please retain records related to your actions taken in response to this NRCB for possible future inspection by the NRC staff.

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Mr. William A. Josiger

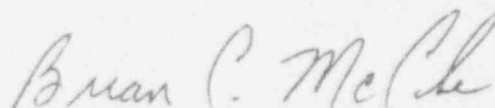
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February 22, 1994

This completes the licensing action for TAC No. M86934. As stated in NRCB 93-03, you were required to submit a report within 30 days of completion of the hardware modification confirming completion and describing the modification that was implemented. As discussed with Mr. Jack Gray of your staff on February 8, 1994, PASNY has committed to submit this report for FitzPatrick by February 28, 1994.

On November 26, 1993, the NRC staff issued NRC Information Notice (IN) 93-89, "Potential Problems With BWR Level Instrumentation Backfill Modifications." The staff is still reviewing the concerns identified in this IN and any possible actions resulting from it will be addressed separately from this TAC.

Sincerely,



Brian C. McCabe, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate I-1  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

Mr. William A. Josiger  
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James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear  
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Original signed by:

Brian C. McCabe, Senior Project Manager  
Project Directorate I-1  
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

cc: See next page

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