



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

September 6, 1978

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Docket No. 50-219

Jersey Central Power & Light Company
ATTN: Mr. I. R. Finfrock, Jr.
Vice President - Generation
Madison Avenue at Punch Bowl Road
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

Gentlemen:

A number of instances of control rods failing to fully insert on scram have occurred over the past few years. The typical reported event involves a number of rods stopping short of the fully inserted position and then settling back to notch position "02" or six inches short of full insertion.

It is the staff's understanding that while failure to fully insert to the "00" position has occurred at a number of plants, not all of these events have been reported, perhaps because the event was not considered to have sufficient safety significance. Therefore, it is difficult for the staff to determine if instances of control rods failing to insert are decreasing or are indicative of a generic problem with potential safety implications. To enable a better understanding of the number of facilities affected and any trend in the number of rods failing to insert on each scram, we are requesting all licensees with operating BWRs to review their records for calendar year 1977. We would appreciate receiving a letter within 30 days that states that either no such events occurred at your facility or that within 90 days of this letter you will provide a summary tabulation of the events. For each such event, you should identify the number of rods not fully inserted, the position of the rods, the cause of failure to fully insert and any related maintenance activities. Reference to reports that already describe such events is acceptable.

We recommend that you maintain an ongoing tabulation of any additional such events that may occur during the calendar year 1978. Should our evaluation of the 1977 data warrant, we may make a similar request for data covering calendar year 1978.

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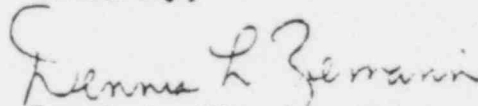
Jersey Central Power &
Light Company

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This request for generic information was approved by GAO under a blanket clearance number B-180225(R0536); this clearance expires June 30, 1981.

Sincerely,



Dennis L. Ziemann, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Operating Reactors

cc: See next page

Jersey Central Power & Light Company

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cc

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