

DCS

MAY 20 1991

New York Power Authority
ATTN: Mr. Ralph E. Beedle
Executive Vice President - Nuclear Generation
P. O. Box 41
Lycoming, New York 13093

Dear Mr. Beedle:

Subject: NRC Region I Augmented Inspection Team Inspection 50-333/91-80

This letter refers to an Augmented Inspection Team (AIT) inspection led by Dr. Robert J. Bores of this office on March 19 to March 28, 1991, at the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant, and to the discussions held with you and members of your staff on April 2, 1991 at the Region I Office to review the inspection findings. This inspection focused on ascertaining the relevant facts and probable cause(s) of the event on March 18, 1991, during which radioactive materials were inadvertently drawn from the waste concentrator into the auxiliary boiler system, from there released to the atmosphere, and subsequently, as the result of some of the contamination being washed by rainfall into site storm sewers, released offsite to Lake Ontario. The AIT also focused on those actions taken to assess the extent of the release, mitigate or stabilize the material released to the environment, initiate recovery activities and assess the consequences to site workers and the public.

Areas examined during this inspection are described in the NRC Region I Inspection Report which is enclosed with this letter. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of detailed examinations of selected procedures and analyses associated with this event, interviews with personnel, observations by the inspectors and independent measurements made by the inspectors. As part of this inspection, the Region I Mobile Radiological Measurements Laboratory was brought to the site and used to independently analyze selected samples and to verify measurements of selected samples made by your laboratories.

The AIT concluded that the release of radioactive material from the radwaste concentrator through the auxiliary boiler system and ultimately to the outside atmosphere on March 18, 1991 was due to inappropriate operations and valve lineup. The AIT also concluded that the lack of adequate management oversight in the radwaste area, lack of certain procedures and failure to follow procedures were causes related to this event. Potential violations associated with the findings of this inspection will be the subject of separate correspondence.

With regard to your response to the event, following its detection, the AIT concluded that your actions were, in general, well planned, focused, timely and effective to mitigate and stabilize the activity released on site and to preclude additional releases off site.

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MAY 20 1991

No reply to this letter is required. Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
Malcolm R. Knapp

Malcolm R. Knapp, Director
Division of Radiation Safety and
Safeguards

Enclosure:

NRC Region I Augmented Inspection Team Inspection Report No. 50-333/91-80

cc w/encl:

J. Brons, President
W. Fernandez, Resident Manager
J. Gray, Director, Nuclear Licensing - BWR
Dept. of Public Service, State of New York
State of New York, Department of Law
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
NRC Resident Inspector
State of New York, SLO Designee

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MAY 20 1991

- bcc w/encl:
- Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
- Management Assistant, DRMA (w/o encl)
- J. Joyner, DRSS
- J. Linville, DRP
- D. Vito, DRP
- D. Haverkamp, DRP
- T. Vegel, DRP
- B. McCabe, NRR
- K. Brockman, EDO
- R. Capra, NRR
- J. Lieberman, OE
- J. Goldberg, OGC
- J. Partlow, NRR
- R. Bernero, NMSS
- D. Holody, RI
- T. Martin, RI
- W. Kane, RI
- C. Hehl, RI
- M. Knapp, RI
- W. Hodges, RI
- D. Kirkpatrick, NRR/OGCB
- K. ABRAHAM, PAO(12)

RI:DRP

Temps/slj
4/26/91

CRCT

RI:DRSS

Joyner

5/17/91

RI:DRP

Plasse
4/26/91

RAF

RI:DRSS

Cooper

5/4/91

RI:DRSS

Chawaga
4/30/91

DSC

RI:DRSS

Knapp

5/18/91

RI:DRSS

had
Kottan
4/26/91

RI:DRP

Hehl

5/7/91

RI:DRSS

AB
Bores
5/1/91

RI:DRA

Kane

5/13/91

RI:DRSS

nm
McNamara
5/2/91

RI:RA

Martin

5/21/91