

February 6, 1992

Docket No. 50-333

Mr. John C. Brons
President and Chief Operating Officer
Power Authority of the State of New York
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Mr. Brons:

The findings documented in our recent Diagnostic Evaluation Team Report for the FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant have raised questions about the validity of some of the models and data that form the basis of the FitzPatrick Individual Plant Examination (IPE). In particular, we are concerned that the weaknesses identified in your engineering evaluations, design activities and configuration control may have resulted in IPE models that are inaccurate or incomplete representations of the FitzPatrick systems and operations. In addition, because the plant data used to compute failure probabilities was derived from records of a period in the early 1980s, we are concerned that the operability problems and procedural deficiencies recently identified by the diagnostic evaluation may indicate incomplete knowledge and documentation of equipment failure rates actually experienced during that period. These issues cause us to question the unusually low core damage frequency (CDF) estimate produced by the FitzPatrick IPE.

In order to satisfy the objectives of the IPE program, your IPE should reflect as much as possible the current knowledge of the plant and its operations. Therefore, we request that you review the accuracy of its underlying evaluations and conclusions and reconcile them with the findings of our Diagnostic Evaluation Team. Please submit your response on the docket for inclusion in our review of your IPE.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(a), a copy of this letter will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. Should you have any questions about our concerns in this matter, we would be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Thomas E. Murley
Thomas E. Murley, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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