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Senior Vice President
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February 14, 1985
JPN-85-11

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Attention: Mr. Domenic B. Vassallo, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch No. 2
Division of Licensing

Subject: James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant
Docket No. 50-333
Refuel Interlocks and Control Rod Blocks
(JPTS-84-21)

- References:
1. NYPA letter, C. A. McNeill, Jr. to D. B. Vassallo, dated December 6, 1984 (JPN-84-81).
 2. NYPA letter, C. A. McNeill, Jr. to D. B. Vassallo, dated January 10, 1985 (JPN-85-01).
 3. Notice of Consideration of Issuance of Amendment to Facility Operating License and Proposed No Significant Hazards Consideration Determination and Opportunity for Hearing, Federal Register dated February 4, 1985 (50FR4929-4931).
 4. NYPA letter, C. A. McNeill, Jr. to D. B. Vassallo, dated February 8, 1985 (JPN-85-09).

Dear Sir:

This letter is a clarification to the application for amendment originally submitted in Reference 1.

The New York Power Authority submitted an application for amendment of the FitzPatrick operating license in Reference 1. This application was subsequently amended to provide additional information (Reference 2).

The proposed amendment would revise the Technical Specifications to permit refueling with the Reactor Protection System (RPS) inoperable. These revisions would facilitate installation of the Analog Trip Transmitter System and avoid delay in completion of the Reload 6/Cycle 7 refueling outage which begins on February 16, 1985.

The Commission published a notice in the Federal Register (Reference 3) concerning the proposed issuance of this amendment. This notice provided for a 30-day comment period prior to NRC issuance of the amendment.

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In Reference 4 the Authority requested that the application be granted without waiting for the comment period to expire, pursuant to 10CFR50.91 in order to prevent avoidable delays in returning the FitzPatrick Plant to service.

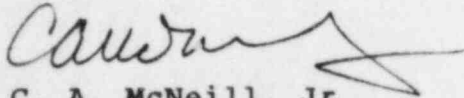
In telephone conversations with Mr. H. Abelson and Mr. R. Kendall of the NRC staff, we were requested to provide responses to several questions which had arisen.

In response to these questions, the Authority made the following clarifications:

1. Each control rod drive has four associated directional control valves. Each of the four directional control valve amphenols on each of the 137 hydraulic control units will be disconnected and tagged with a Hold - Do Not Operate tag to preclude inadvertent reconnection during the entire time period that the reactor protection system is inoperable and refueling is in progress.
2. No control rod drive maintenance will be performed while the reactor protection system is inoperable.
3. At least one train of the standby liquid control system will remain operable during the period that the reactor protection system is inoperable and refueling is in progress.
4. Verification that all control rods are fully inserted will be performed daily.
5. The neutron monitoring system will be operable as required by Technical Specification Table 3.1-1 for refueling operations.
6. Neutron monitoring surveillance required by Technical Specification Table 4.1-1 on a weekly basis will be conducted to the extent possible while the reactor protection system is inoperable.
7. All refuel interlocks not associated with rod motion will remain operable during the period that the reactor protection system is inoperable and refueling is in progress.
8. Core monitoring required by Technical Specification Section 3.10.B during core alterations will be performed on a daily basis during the time period that the reactor protection system is inoperable.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. J. A. Gray, Jr. of my staff.

Very truly yours,



C. A. McNeill, Jr.
Senior vice President
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