

May 3, 1996

Mr. Michael J. Colomb  
Plant Manager  
New York Power Authority  
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant  
Post Office Box 41  
Lycoming, NY 13093

SUBJECT: NRC REGION I INSPECTION NO. 50-333/96-02

Dear Mr. Colomb:

This refers to the results of the routine safety inspection conducted by Messrs. G. Hunegs and R. Fernandes from February 18, 1996 to April 6, 1996 at the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant, Scriba, New York. A summary of the inspection findings was presented to you and members of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection.

This inspection was directed toward areas important to public health and safety. Areas examined during the inspection are described in the NRC Region I inspection report, which is enclosed with this letter. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of observation of activities, interviews with personnel, and document reviews.

The inspectors noted strong management oversight of activities during the trouble shooting, maintenance and testing activities surrounding the discovery of debris in the nitrogen lines to the safety/relief valves. The issue was aggressively pursued by station personnel and your self assessments were critical. However, the maintenance activities previously conducted with respect to the automatic depressurization system introduced a failure mode which affected the reliability of the system.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC concluded that a violation of NRC requirements occurred. You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional actions you plan to prevent recurrence. Your response may reference previous docketed correspondence, if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. After reviewing your response to this Notice, including your proposed corrective actions and the results of future inspections, the NRC will determine whether further NRC enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with NRC regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). To the extent possible, your response should not include any personal privacy, proprietary, or safeguards information so that it can be placed in the PDR without redaction.

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The response directed by this letter and the enclosed Notice are not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, Pub. L. No. 96.511.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

Curtis J. Cowgill, Chief  
Projects Branch No. 2  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-333

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Region I Inspection Report Number 50-333/96-02

cc w/encls:

C. D. Rappleyea, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
R. Schoenberger, President and Chief Operating Officer  
W. J. Cahill, Jr., Chief Nuclear Officer  
H. P. Salmon, Jr., Vice President of Nuclear Operations  
W. Josiger, Vice President - Engineering and Project Management  
J. Kelly, Director - Regulatory Affairs and Special Projects  
T. Dougherty, Vice President - Nuclear Engineering  
R. Deasy, Vice President - Appraisal and Compliance Services  
R. Patch, Director - Quality Assurance  
G. C. Goldstein, Assistant General Counsel  
C. D. Faison, Director, Nuclear Licensing  
Supervisor, Town of Scriba  
C. Donaldson, Esquire, Assistant Attorney General, New York Department of Law  
Director, Electric Division, Department of Public Service, State of New York  
G. T. Goering, Consultant, New York Power Authority  
J. E. Gagliardo, Consultant, New York Power Authority  
F. William Valentino, President, New York State Energy Research  
and Development Authority

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