

Mr. James Knubel
Chief Nuclear Officer
Power Authority of the State of
New York
123 Main Street
White Plains, NY 10601

November 3, 1998

SUBJECT: JAMES A. FITZPATRICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - AUTHORIZATION OF
ALTERNATIVE TO ASME CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTROL ROD DRIVE
BOLTING (TAC NO. MA1764)

Dear Mr. Knubel:

On May 8, 1998, the Power Authority of the State of New York (also known as the New York Power Authority, or NYPA) requested relief from certain American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Code requirements at the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant. Specifically, NYPA requested relief from requirements for additional examinations of control rod drive (CRD) bolting when cracks are detected in the head-to-shank fillet area. Additional information regarding this request was provided on September 11, 1998, in response to an NRC request dated August 31, 1998.

The NRC staff, with the assistance of its contractor, the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), has concluded that NYPA's metallurgical and engineering analyses provide reasonable assurance of the continued inservice structural integrity of the CRD bolting at the FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant. Replacing all CRD bolting at one time, during the Code-required additional examinations, would result in hardship without a compensating increase in the level of quality and safety. Therefore, the staff concluded that the licensee's proposed alternative in Request for Relief No. RR-14 is authorized pursuant to 10 CFR 50.55a(a)(3)(ii). Details of the staff and INEEL assessment are provided in the enclosed safety evaluation and Technical Letter Report.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Joe Williams at (301) 415-1470.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

S. Singh Bajwa, Director
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-333

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation
w/attachment

cc w/encl: See next page

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20585-0001

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. Singh Bajwa".

S. Singh Bajwa, Director
Project Directorate I-1
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-333

Enclosure: Safety Evaluation
w/attachment

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James Knubel
Power Authority of the State
of New York

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Power Plant

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