

June 18, 1999

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

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT 50-333/99-04

Dear Mr. Colomb:

On May 29, 1999, the NRC completed an inspection at the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the seven-week inspection period covered by this report, the facility was operated safely. A power reduction followed by single loop operation was appropriately planned and executed by your staff. In addition, your staff took appropriate actions upon discovery of a condition that rendered the RCIC system inoperable including restoring the system and verifying the extent of condition. However, the NRC identified that the post event operability determination did not correctly assess the operability status of the reactor core isolation cooling system. To address this matter, your staff has revised the affected operability determination and has agreed to report this matter in accordance with 10 CFR 50.73.

Based on the results of this inspection, the NRC has determined that two Severity Level IV violations of NRC requirements occurred. These violations are being treated as Non-Cited Violations (NCVs), consistent with Appendix C of the Enforcement Policy. The NCVs involved: (1) the failure to properly clear protective tags during the refueling outage, resulting in the reactor core isolation (RCIC) system being inoperable for almost four months; and (2) the identification that the as-found setpoints for the suppression chamber to reactor building vacuum breaker isolation valves were outside of the acceptable tolerance. The NCVs are described in the subject inspection report. If you contest the violation or severity level of these NCVs, you should provide a response within 30 days of the date of this inspection report, with the basis for your denial, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, ATTN: Document Control Desk, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, with copies to the Regional Administrator, Region I, and the Director, Office of Enforcement, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001; and the NRC Resident Inspector at the FitzPatrick facility.

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room. Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact me at 610-337-5146.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

John F. Rogge, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-333/99-04

cc w/encl:

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