



File Center
50-333

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

December 16, 1999

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

**SUBJECT: JAMES A. FITZPATRICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT: SITE SPECIFIC
WORKSHEETS FOR USE IN THE NRC'S SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION
PROCESS**

Dear Mr. Knubel:

As a participant in the Pilot Plant Review of the revised reactor oversight program, you are aware of the NRC's efforts to develop a Significance Determination Process (SDP) for use by the NRC to provide a risk characterization to an inspection finding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the attached Risk-Informed Inspection Notebook which contains site-specific SDP worksheets that inspectors will be using to risk characterize inspection findings. The SDP is discussed in more detail below.

On January 8, 1999, the NRC staff described to the Commission plans and recommendations to improve the reactor oversight process. These recommendations were contained in SECY-99-007, "RECOMMENDATION FOR REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS" (Available on the NRC's Web Site www.nrc.gov/NRC/COMMISSION/SECYS/index.html). The new process, developed with stakeholder involvement, is designed around a risk-informed framework, which is intended to focus both the NRC's and licensee's attention and resources on those issues of more risk significance.

The performance assessment portion of the new process involves the use of both licensee submitted performance indicator (PI) data and inspection findings that have been appropriately categorized based on their risk significance. In order to properly categorize an inspection finding, the NRC has developed the SDP. This process was also described to the Commission in SECY 99-007A, "RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE REACTOR OVERSIGHT PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS (FOLLOW-UP TO SECY-99-007)," dated March 22, 1999, also available on the above noted Web Site.

The SDP for power operations involves evaluating an inspection finding's impact on the plant's capability to: limit the frequency of initiating events; ensure the availability, reliability, and capability of mitigating systems; and to ensure the integrity of the fuel cladding, reactor coolant system, and containment barriers. The SDP involves the use of three tables. Table 1 is the estimated likelihood for initiating event occurrence during the degraded period. Table 2 describes how the significance is determined based on remaining mitigation system capabilities

NRC FILE CENTER COPY

DF01

PDR APOCK 05000333

and Table 3 provides the bases for the failure probabilities associated with the remaining mitigation equipment and strategies.

As a result of the recent Pilot Plant review effort, the NRC has determined that site-specific risk data is needed in order to provide a repeatable determination of the significance of an issue. Therefore, the NRC has contracted with Brookhaven National Lab (BNL) to develop site-specific worksheets to be used in the SDP review. These attached worksheets were developed based on your Individual Plant Examination (IPE) submittal that was requested by Generic Letter 88-20. The NRC plans to use this site-specific information in evaluating the significance of issues identified at your facility. It is recognized that the IPE utilized during this effort may not contain current information. Therefore, the NRC conducted a site visit to your facility and discussed appropriate changes with your staff, which have been incorporated. We are not requesting written comments on the NRC's work product attached to this letter.

If there is a need to conduct additional follow-up visits, we will coordinate our efforts through your licensing or risk organizations as appropriate. If you have any questions, please contact me at (301)415-1441.

Sincerely,

Original /s/ by Guy S. Vissing

Guy S. Vissing, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate I
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-333

Enclosure: Risk-Informed Inspection Notebook

cc w/encl: See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

- File Center
- PUBLIC
- PDI-1 R/F
- E. Adensam (e-mail)
- S. Peterson
- S. Little
- G. Vissing
- OGC
- ACRS
- M. Oprendeck, RGN-I

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\PDI-1\Fitz\LTRPILOT.wpd

To receive a copy of this document, indicate in the box: "C" - Copy without attachment/enclosure "E" - Copy with attachment/enclosure "N" - No copy

OFFICE	PDI-1/PM	PDI-1/LA	PDI-1/SC	
NAME	GVissing:lcc	SLittle	SPeterson	
DATE	12/16/99	12/15/99	12/15/99	12/ /99

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant

Mr. Gerald C. Goldstein
Assistant General Counsel
Power Authority of the State
of New York
1633 Broadway
New York, NY 10019

Resident Inspector's Office
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 136
Lycoming, NY 13093

Mr. Harry P. Salmon, Jr.
Vice President - Engineering
Power Authority of the State
of New York
123 Main Street
White Plains, NY 10601

Ms. Charlene D. Faison
Director Nuclear Licensing
Power Authority of the State
of New York
123 Main Street
White Plains, NY 10601

Supervisor
Town of Scriba
Route 8, Box 382
Oswego, NY 13126

Mr. Eugene W. Zeltmann
President and Chief Operating
Officer
Power Authority of the State
of New York
30 South Pearl Street
Albany, NY 12207-3425

Charles Donaldson, Esquire
Assistant Attorney General
New York Department of Law
120 Broadway
New York, NY 10271

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

David Lochbaum
Nuclear Safety Engineer
Union of Concerned Scientists
1616 P Street N. W., Suite 310
Washington, D.C. 20036-1495

Mr. F. William Valentino, President
New York State Energy, Research,
and Development Authority
Corporate Plaza West
286 Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Mr. Richard L. Patch, Director
Quality Assurance
Power Authority of the State
of New York
123 Main Street
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. Gerard Goering
28112 Bayview Drive
Red Wing, MN 55066

Mr. James Gagliardo
Safety Review Committee
708 Castlewood Avenue
Arlington, TX 76012

Mr. Arthur Zarembo, Licensing Manager
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear
Power Plant
P.O. Box 41
Lycoming, NY 13093

Mr. Paul Eddy
New York State Dept. of
Public Service
3 Empire State Plaza, 10th Floor
Albany, NY 12223

Michael J. Colomb
Site Executive Officer
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant
P.O. Box 41
Lycoming, NY 13093

Mr. Eric Beckjord
2909 29th St. NW
Washington, DC 20008-3416

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

Steve Floyd
NEI
1776 I Street N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006