

January 3, 2000

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

**SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN -  
JAMES A. FITZPATRICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT**

Dear Mr. Colomb:

On December 13, 1999, the NRC staff reviewed the plant performance of James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant during June 1 - November 30, 1999, as reflected in the performance indicators and inspection results, in order to integrate performance information and to plan for inspection activities at your facility through July 31, 2000. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

Our review of performance at the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant noted that all performance indicators (PIs) and inspection areas were green (licensee response band), with the exception of the white (increased regulatory response band) PI for the high pressure coolant injection (HPCI) safety system unavailability performance indicator for the mitigating systems cornerstone. In addition, on December 29, 1999, we issued inspection report 05000333/99009 which contains the staff determination that the HPCI unavailability constituted a significant inspection finding per the NRC's significance determination process (SDP). Because the SDP characterization pertains to the same underlying issue as the performance indicator, the NRC considers this to be a single issue within a cornerstone. Additionally, consistent with pilot plant programmatic inspection requirements, the NRC is planning a supplemental inspection to review your long term corrective actions for this event.

The NRC has also identified a trend in the cross-cutting area of human performance. Although this trend has not resulted in any significant reductions in the margins of safety, we are providing it to enhance your station's performance in this important cross-cutting area. This human performance trend relates primarily to weaknesses in engineering and technical support performance. These weaknesses included testing of the HPCI system that contributed to system unavailability, system walkdowns that missed a number of material condition issues, entry of items into the corrective action system, and delays in ensuring that relevant issues were adequately communicated to operators. This issue does not require additional inspection and we will continue to monitor activities in this area through routine execution of the baseline inspection program.

Mr. Michael J. Colomb

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This letter advises you of our planned inspection effort resulting from the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant mid-cycle performance review. Enclosure 1 lists the scheduled inspections that are planned through July 31, 2000. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff, and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspectors arriving onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The last few months of the inspection plan are tentative and will be revised at the end-of-cycle performance review in April 2000, which we expect to issue to you in May 2000.

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 (PDR). If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact John Rogge at 610-337-5146 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by:

A. Randolph Blough, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 05000333

License No. DPR-59

Enclosures: 1. James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant Inspection/Activity Plan  
2. Plant Issue Matrix

cc w/encl:

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