

November 29, 2000

Mr. Theodore Sullivan  
Vice President - Operations  
Entergy Nuclear Northeast  
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant  
Post Office Box 41  
Lycoming, NY 13093

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - FITZPATRICK  
NUCLEAR PLANT

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

On November 6, 2000, the NRC staff completed its Mid-Cycle plant performance assessment of the FitzPatrick Nuclear Plant. The Mid-Cycle Review for FitzPatrick involved the participation of the responsible technical divisions in Region I in evaluating the performance indicators (PIs) and inspection results for the period of October 1, 1999, through September 30, 2000. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and 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.

Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on one inspection finding of low to moderate safety significance (white) within the Mitigating Systems Cornerstone from the fourth quarter of 1999 and a white performance indicator (PI) within the Initiating Events Cornerstone for the third quarter of 2000. This is the third time this PI (i.e., unplanned power changes per 7,000 critical hours) has been white in the past year, indicating continued problems with equipment reliability that have impacted plant operations. In response to this white PI, the NRC has scheduled a supplemental inspection at your facility during January 2001. No other inspections beyond the baseline program are currently planned at your facility over the next 10 months.

In addition, we continue to note an adverse trend in your engineering and station technical support activities. In our end-of-cycle performance review letter dated May 18, 2000, we discussed weaknesses in engineering support. Our findings during the Problem Identification and Resolution (PI&R) inspection continue to support this assessment. Specifically, during the PI&R inspection, there were several findings that reflected poor problem identification, failures to perform adequate operability determinations and ineffective corrective actions. The NRC will continue to focus on these issues during the upcoming supplemental inspection, during the PI&R and Safety System Design Inspections (SSDI) scheduled for next year and during other routine baseline inspections.

Mr. Theodore Sullivan  
Fitzpatrick

2

Enclosure 1 details the scheduled inspections that will occur through September 30, 2001. 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 inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The last six months of the inspection plans are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

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 me at (610) 337-5211 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

A. Randolph Blough, Director  
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 05000333  
License No. DPR-59

Enclosure: James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant Inspection/Activity Plan

cc w/encl:

J. Knubel, Vice President - Operations Support  
D. Pace, Vice President - Engineering  
C. Faison, Director, Nuclear Licensing, NYPA  
G. Tasick, Licensing Manager  
T. Morra, Executive Chair, Four County Nuclear Safety Committee  
Supervisor, Town of Scriba  
C. Donaldson, Esquire, Assistant Attorney General, New York Department of Law  
P. Eddy, Electric Division, Department of Public Service, State of New York  
F. William Valentino, President, New York State Energy Research  
and Development Authority  
J. Spath, Program Director, New York State Energy Research  
and Development Authority

Mr. Theodore Sullivan  
Fitzpatrick

3

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**FitzPatrick**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**12/03/2000 - 09/29/2001**

ENCLOSURE

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	<b>95001 - SUPPLEMENTAL INSPECTION</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 95001	Supplemental Inspection For One Or Two White Inputs In A Strategic Performance Area		01/08/2001	01/12/2001	Supplemental Program
	<b>71114B - EMRG.PROG.RVW. &amp; PI</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		01/29/2001	02/02/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		01/29/2001	02/02/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111404	Emergency Action Level and Emergency Plan Changes		01/29/2001	02/02/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		01/29/2001	02/02/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		01/29/2001	02/02/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>711117B - PERMANENT MODIFICATIONS</b>		<b>3</b>			
1	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		02/05/2001	02/09/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 711117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		02/05/2001	02/09/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7112102 - OCCUPATIONAL RAD SAFETY &amp; PI VERIFICATIO</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		03/12/2001	03/16/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		03/12/2001	03/16/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71152 - PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION &amp; RESOLUTION</b>		<b>4</b>			
1	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		04/09/2001	04/13/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		04/23/2001	04/27/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7112203 - REMP</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		04/23/2001	04/27/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7112202 - RADWASTE</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		04/30/2001	05/04/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7111107B - HEAT SINK PERFORMANCE</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		05/06/2001	05/10/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7112102 - OCC RAD SAFETY - ALARA</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		07/09/2001	07/13/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7112101 - RETS</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		08/13/2001	08/17/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7112103 - OCC RAD SAFETY - CALIBRATION</b>		<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		09/10/2001	09/14/2001	Baseline Inspections
	<b>7111121 - SSFI</b>		<b>5</b>			
1	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		09/10/2001	09/14/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		09/24/2001	09/28/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		09/24/2001	09/28/2001	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.  
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.