

May 31, 2001

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

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN - FITZPATRICK
NUCLEAR PLANT**

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

On May 9, 2001, the NRC staff completed its end-of-cycle plant performance assessment of the FitzPatrick Nuclear Plant. The end-of-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 April 1, 2000, through March 31, 2001. 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. On June 19, 2001, we plan to present this assessment to you and your staff in a meeting at your Training Center. The meeting will be open for public observation.

Overall, FitzPatrick operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response Column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on a White performance indicator (PI) for unplanned power changes per 7,000 critical hours. This is the fourth consecutive quarter that this PI has been White, indicating continued problems with equipment reliability that have impacted plant operations. We performed a supplemental inspection of your evaluation of the White PI, and found your review and proposed long-term corrective actions acceptable. Additionally, NRC inspections and Entergy self-assessments did not identify any new findings that were greater than Green (very low safety significance) during this assessment period. However, the significance of a performance issue regarding ineffective corrective actions for repetitive failures of the main steam isolation valves to pass local leak rate testing is currently under review as part of the Significance Determination Process. At this time, no inspections beyond the baseline program are planned at your facility between now and May 31, 2002.

In addition, the NRC continues to note a substantive cross-cutting issue in the area of corrective action. During the resident inspections, the problem identification & resolution (P&IR) team inspection and the supplemental inspection of the White PI, there were numerous findings that involve poor problem identification, failures to perform adequate operability determinations and ineffective corrective actions. These findings included ineffective evaluations of deficiencies that impacted on the operability of the high pressure coolant injection (HPCI), reactor core isolation cooling (RCIC) and residual heat removal service water (RHRSW) systems on several

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occasions; equipment problems that were not promptly identified on three occasions as denoted in the P&IR inspection; and multiple examples of ineffective corrective actions for identified equipment problems as detailed in the P&IR inspection and the January 2001 supplemental inspection. A cause of a number of these problems appears to be weak engineering support. Similar cross-cutting issues at FitzPatrick have been discussed in our previous assessment letters under the NRC's new oversight process. These concerns were also discussed with you and your staff during a regulatory performance meeting on April 27, 2001. At that meeting, you stated that you have begun a number of initiatives to improve the effectiveness of your corrective action program, including an improved problem screening process and management emphasis on the corrective action review board. We note that these efforts are in an early stage of development.

Enclosure 1 details the scheduled inspections that will occur through May, 2002. 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 few months of the inspection plans are tentative and may be revised.

For your information, the NRC is in the process of aligning the inspection and assessment cycle with the calendar year. In order to transition to a calendar year cycle (January 1 - December 31), the next inspection and assessment cycle will consist of only three quarters (i.e., the second, third and fourth calendar quarters of CY 2001). As a result, a quarterly review will be conducted for the third calendar quarter (July 1 - September 30) in lieu of a mid-cycle review. The impact on the inspection plan is minimal.

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). Our assessment process and terminology are further described in the NRC Reactor Oversight Process Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/index.html>

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 Glenn Meyer of my staff 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:

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FitzPatrick

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FitzPatrick
Inspection / Activity Plan
06/01/2001 - 05/31/2002

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	11/5EXAM - INIT OPER LIC EXAM		4			
1	U01458	FITZPATRICK O/L INITIAL EXAM 11/05/01 TO 11/09/01		10/07/2001	10/12/2001	Not Applicable
1	U01458	FITZPATRICK O/L INITIAL EXAM 11/05/01 TO 11/09/01		11/05/2001	11/09/2001	Not Applicable
	7112102 - OCC RAD SAFETY - ALARA		1			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		07/09/2001	07/13/2001	Baseline Inspections
	7111401 - EP EXERCISE EVALUATION		7			
1	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		07/16/2001	07/20/2001	Baseline Inspections
	60854 - ISFSI IMPLEMENTATION INSPECTION		3			
1	IP 60854	Preoperational Testing Of An ISFSI		07/23/2001	07/27/2001	Other Routine
	7112101 - RETS		1			
1	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		07/30/2001	08/03/2001	Baseline Inspections
	60854 - ISFSI IMPLEMENTATION INSPECTION		1			
1	IP 60854	Preoperational Testing Of An ISFSI		08/13/2001	08/17/2001	Other Routine
	7111121 - SSDI		6			
1	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		09/10/2001	09/14/2001	Baseline Inspections
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
	7112103 - OCC RAD SAFETY - CALIBRATION		1			
1	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation		09/10/2001	09/14/2001	Baseline Inspections
	60855 - ISFSI IMPLEMENTATION INSPECTION		2			
1	IP 60855	Operation Of An ISFSI		09/10/2001	09/14/2001	Other Routine
	71152 - PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION & RESOLUTION		3			
1	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		10/22/2001	10/26/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 71152	Identification and Resolution of Problems		11/05/2001	11/09/2001	Baseline Inspections
	71130 - SECURITY		1			
1	IP 7113001	Access Authorization Program (Behavior Observation Only)		10/22/2001	10/26/2001	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7113002	Access Control (Search of Personnel, Packages, and Vehicles: Identification and Authorizatio		10/22/2001	10/26/2001	Baseline Inspections
	711112B - MAINTENANCE RULE		1			
1	IP 711112B	Maintenance Rule Implementation		10/29/2001	11/02/2001	Baseline Inspections
	7112101 - OCC RAD SAFETY - ACCESS		1			
1	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		11/26/2001	11/30/2001	Baseline Inspections
	7112102 - OCC RAD SAFETY - ALARA		1			
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		02/18/2002	02/22/2002	Baseline Inspections
	711111B - L.O.REQUAL INSPECTION		2			
1	IP 711111B	Licensed Operator Requalification		04/08/2002	04/12/2002	Baseline Inspections

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