

John C. Brons
Executive Vice President
Nuclear Generation

April 20, 1990
JPN-90-034

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
ATTN: Document Control Desk
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Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant
Docket No. 50-333
IGSCC RHR Weld Overlay Repair

REFERENCES: 1. NYPA letter J. C. Brons to NRC (JPN-90-012), dated January 29, 1990, regarding IGSCC Inspection Plans for the 1990 Refueling Outage.

Dear Sir:

During the current refueling outage at the James A. Fitzpatrick plant, the Authority is inspecting a minimum of forty-one welds which are potentially susceptible to Intergranular Stress Corrosion Cracking (IGSCC). The Authority's inspection plans were presented in Reference 1 and discussed further in a subsequent meeting with the NRC staff on February 25, 1990.

Three of the forty-one welds scheduled to be examined are the bimetallic weld joints which join the carbon steel Residual Heat Removal (RHR) piping and valves to the stainless steel recirculation system. Should ultrasonic testing of these welds indicate significant cracking, the Authority may choose to reinforce the weld joints with a weld overlay. Qualified repair work, if necessary, will reestablish the original design code safety margins for the cracked weldments.

The Authority has developed and qualified an weld overlay repair technique for the bimetallic RHR weld joints which does not require draining the recirculation system. This technique will reduce occupational radiation exposures and shorten the estimated repair time by approximately two weeks. Attached, for your use and information, is a copy of the Authority's qualification report entitled "Development of Inconel Weld Overlay Repair for Carbon Steel to Stainless Steel Weld Joints."

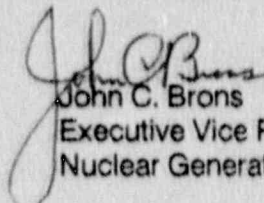
Examinations of the bimetallic RHR weld joints will be completed shortly. Should the Authority choose to implement this weld overlay repair process, NRC staff approval, as required by Generic Letter 88-C1, will be requested separately.

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Copies of this report are being provided to Messrs. M. Mayfield (RES-MED) and H. Kaplan (RI) because of their work with the EPRI and ASME Section XI subcommittees on welding.

Should you or your staff have any questions regarding the proposed changes, please contact J. B. Ellmers of my staff.

Very truly yours,


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