



J. Philip Bayne
Executive Vice President
Nuclear Generation

April 18, 1984
JPN-84-25

Director of Nuclear Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Attention: Mr. Domenic B. Vassallo, Chief
Operating Reactor Branch No. 2
Division of Licensing

Subject: James A FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant
Docket No. 50-333
NUREG-0737, II.B.3.2
Post Accident Sampling System

- References:
1. PASNY letter, J.P. Bayne to D.B. Vassallo, dated December 23, 1982 (JPN-82-91).
 2. NRC letter, D.B. Vassallo to L.W. Sinclair, dated March 14, 1983.
 3. NYPA letter, J.P. Bayne to D.B. Vassallo, dated August 5, 1983 (JPN-83-72).
 4. NYPA letter, J.P. Bayne to D.B. Vassallo, dated December 29, 1983 (JPN-83-102).

Dear Mr. Vassallo:

This letter requests an amendment of the Confirmatory Order transmitted in Reference 2. This request is necessary because of delays encountered in obtaining approvals of the dissolved gas sampling portion of the system, the post accident shipping cask, and proposed changes to our Technical Specifications related to operation of the Post-Accident Sampling System (PASS).

In Reference 1 we discussed NUREG-0737, Item II.B.3.2, and scheduled completion of the modification by the end of the Reload 5/Cycle 6 refueling outage. Reference 2 confirmed that schedule.

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In Reference 3 we reaffirmed that a system had been purchased and was being installed. Reference 3 also discussed the problems encountered in the dissolved gas portion of the system, and anticipated installation of a corrective modification by December 31, 1983.

The Authority stated in Reference 4 that since delivery of the modification had been postponed until 1984, it was necessary to reschedule installation until after delivery.

The problems encountered in the dissolved gas portion of the system are being addressed by the BWR Owners Group (BWROG) PASS Subcommittee. Both the PASS supplier, General Electric (GE), and the BWROG have been in continual contact with the NRC regarding the problems and the proposed resolution. A modification has been developed by GE and has been shipped to PASS owners. The Owners Group has recently been informed by GE that unforeseen difficulties have developed in getting NRC approval for the modification. We have been advised that resolution of this item is expected within 3 to 5 weeks.

NYPA has been in contact with your office throughout the development of this issue, and it has been our understanding to date that the difficulties with the dissolved gas portion of the system would not place the Authority in violation of the Confirmatory Order. Nevertheless, in light of this most recent delay, we request that the Order be amended.

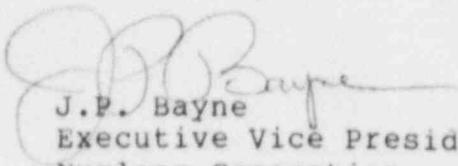
The second regulatory delay that has been encountered relates to the post accident shipping cask. The GE system employed at the FitzPatrick Plant utilizes a grab sample which is transferred into a cask and analyzed in the chemistry lab on site. For backup capability and primary chloride measurements, the undiluted sample will be inserted in a post accident shipping cask. Two casks have been purchased by the Pooled Inventory Management spare parts program (PIMS) of which the Authority is a member. These casks, being manufactured by Nuclear Packaging, Inc. are awaiting final NRC licensing approval.

Finally the Authority has requested changes to our Technical Specifications to allow sampling during power operation with a containment atmosphere monitor temporarily isolated. Until these changes are approved, we are not able to test the PASS during plant operation without violating our Technical Specifications.

In light of these delays, we request that the Order be amended to schedule completion of all items related to the PASS for August 31, 1984. Should resolution of these items be delayed beyond that date, the Authority will request a further postponement at that time.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact
Mr. J. A. Gray, Jr. of my staff.

Very truly yours,



J.P. Bayne
Executive Vice President
Nuclear Generation

cc: Office of the Resident Inspector
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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