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January 8, 1980  
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Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation  
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Attention: Mr. Thomas A. Ippolito  
Operating Reactors Branch No. 3  
Division of Operating Reactors

Subject: James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant  
Docket No. 50-333  
Fuel Rod Strain and Flow Blockage Models

Dear Sir:

This letter is in response to your letters of November 9, 1979 and November 27, 1979, requesting confirmation that the fuel rod strain-flow blockage models used on the FitzPatrick Plant are conservative with respect to the NRC's model derived from ORNL Multi-Rod Burst Test Facility data. Since we do not technically have or use our own models in this area, the following discussion pertains to the use of General Electric Company approved models in association with the operation of the FitzPatrick Plant.

Via both your letters of November 9 and 27, and our correspondence from GE, we are aware of the review effort GE has applied to this issue. We are also aware of the communications between GE and the NRC on this subject, and we herein affirm that based on our correspondence from GE, that it is our understanding that over the operating range of interest pertinent to the FitzPatrick Plant, that the models applied by GE and approved by the NRC are of a conservative level equivalent to the NRC model.

Very truly yours,

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Paul J. Early  
Assistant Chief Engineer-Projects

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