

50-333



Michael J. Colomb  
Plant Manager

October 29, 1996  
JA/P-96-0439

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Mail Station P1-137  
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant  
Docket No. 50-333  
Response to NRC Bulletin 96-03

- References:
1. NRC Bulletin 96-03, "Potential Plugging of Emergency Core Cooling Suction Strainers by Debris in Boiling Water Reactors," dated May 6, 1996
  2. JA/P-95-0494, "Response to NRC Bulletin 95-02," dated November 16, 1995

Dear Sir:

This letter transmits the Authority's response to NRC Bulletin (NRCB) 96-03 (Reference 1) for the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant. NRCB 96-03 requests that, within 180 days of the date of the bulletin, a response be provided indicating how the Authority intends to comply with the requested actions. The Bulletin requests a description of planned actions and mitigative strategies to be used, the schedule for implementation, and proposed Technical Specifications (TS), if appropriate. NRCB 96-03 also requests that the Authority provide a report confirming completion and summarizing any actions taken, within 30 days of completion of all requested actions.

The Authority intends to install a large capacity passive strainer design (i.e., NRCB 96-03, Option 1) during the Refuel 13/Cycle 14 (R13/C14) Refueling Outage (RFO) which is currently scheduled for Fall 1998. This meets the NRCB 96-03 requirement because the R13/C14 RFO is the first RFO for FitzPatrick commencing after January 1, 1997. A report will be provided to the NRC confirming completion and summarizing actions taken no later than 30 days after startup from the R13/C14 RFO.

The Option 1 design has two main advantages. First, it is completely passive and, therefore, requires no operator intervention. Second, this option does not require an interruption of Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS) flow. The size of the new passive strainer will adequately envelope the combined effects of debris (e.g., fiber insulation) generation during a Loss of Coolant Accident (LOCA) and suppression pool sludge. The intent of installing a new large capacity passive strainer is to restore the original design basis for ECCS. The modification for the new strainers will be evaluated under the provisions of 10 CFR 50.59. If this evaluation concludes that an Unreviewed Safety Question (USQ) exists, prior NRC approval will be requested.

11  
Ie73

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Subject: Response to NRC Bulletin 96-03  
Page -2-

The Authority, as a member of the Boiling Water Reactors Owner Group (BWROG) ECCS Suction Strainer Committee, is currently working on issues associated with the application of the Option 1 design. Part of this work, which is scheduled during R12/C13 RFO, includes detailed suppression pool de-sludging, sludge analysis, and drywell and suppression pool inspections. The R12/C13 RFO commenced on October 26, 1996.

NRCB 96-03 also requested utilities to incorporate a new surveillance requirement for the strainers, supporting structures, and suppression pool into the TS, if appropriate. The Authority does not plan on proposing an amendment to the TS to incorporate any additional surveillance requirement. Inspection criteria for the new strainers and supporting structures and verification criteria for adequate suppression pool cleanliness will be placed in Authority controlled procedures prior to startup from the R13/C14 RFO.

The actions that have been and will be taken by the Authority, as outlined in JAFP-95-0494 (Reference 2), continue to demonstrate compliance with 10 CFR 50.46. The status of suppression pool cleanliness at FitzPatrick will not adversely affect ECCS performance and the ECCS will continue to perform the safety function of long-term decay heat removal following a LOCA. Based on this, no operability concerns exist regarding ECCS suction strainer blockage.

As stated above, the Authority intends to install a large capacity passive strainer design (i.e., NRCB 96-03, Option 1) during the R13/C14 RFO. However, as significant industry efforts relative to this issue are progressing, new design options for passive strainers developed by the industry are possible and will be evaluated by the Authority. If the Authority's intent to install a large capacity passive strainer (i.e., NRCB 96-03, Option 1) changes, the NRC will be informed prior to the R13/C14 RFO.

Attachment 1 lists the commitments made by the Authority in this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. R. Plasse at (315) 349-6793.

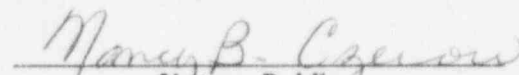
Very truly yours,



MICHAEL J. COLOMB  
Plant Manager

STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF OSWEGO

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 29 day of October 1996.

  
Notary Public

NANCY B. CZEIZLER  
Notary Public, State of New York  
Qualified in Oswego County No. 40000114  
My Comm. Expires 06/01/99

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Subject: Response to NRC Bulletin 96-03  
Page -3-

Attachment: As stated

cc: Regional Administrator  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Office of the Resident Inspector  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
P.O. Box 136  
Lycoming, New York 13093

Ms. K. Cotton, Acting Project Manager  
Project Directorate I-1  
Division of Reactor Projects I/II  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Stop 14 B2  
Washington, DC 20555

**Attachment 1 to JAFP-96-0439**

**Summary of Commitments**

Number	Commitment	Due Date
JAFP-96-0439-01	The Authority intends to install a large capacity passive strainer design (i.e., NRCB 96-03, Option 1).	Prior to startup from the R13/C14 RFO
JAFP-96-0439-02	Provide a report to the NRC confirming completion and summarizing actions taken relative to NRCB 96-03.	No later than 30 days after startup from the R13/C14 RFO.
JAFP-96-0439-03	Place verification criteria for adequate suppression pool cleanliness in an Authority controlled procedure.	Prior to startup from the R13/C14 RFO
JAFP-96-0439-04	Inform the NRC if the Authority's intent to install a large capacity passive strainer (i.e., NRCB 96-03, Option 1) changes.	Prior to the R13/C14 RFO
JAFP-96-0439-05	Place inspection criteria for the new strainers and supporting structures in an Authority controlled procedure.	Prior to startup from the R13/C14 RFO