



**PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO**

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R. F. WALKER  
PRESIDENT

December 20, 1985  
Fort St. Vrain  
Unit No. 1  
P-85487

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

ATTN: Mr. H.N. Berkow, Project Director  
Standardization and Special  
Projects Directorate

Docket No. 50-267

SUBJECT: Request for Authorization  
to Operate at 8 Percent  
of Rated Power

REFERENCE: 1) PSC Letter Dated  
11/22/85, Lee to  
Chilk (P-85432)  
2) PSC Letter Dated  
12/10/85, Walker to  
Berkow (P-85460)  
3) NRC Letter Dated  
9/30/85, Martin to  
Lee (G-85398)

Dear Mr. Berkow:

In Reference 1) the Public Service Company of Colorado (PSC) submitted a revised Environmental Qualification (EQ) Program schedule extension request for Fort St. Vrain (FSV) to operate at power levels up to 35 percent of rated power through May 31, 1986. In Reference 2) PSC submitted the confirmatory evaluations required to support the 35 percent power restriction.

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ADD: W. JOHNSTON, 12 B

PSC will have completed all actions required to operate up to 35 percent of rated power, including interim resolution of the ~~current~~ mechanical snubber problem, by December 27, 1985. Based on discussions between the NRC (Messrs. Berkow, Lynch, and Heitner) and PSC (Messrs. Brey, Warembourg, and Holmes) on December 17, 1985, it appears that the NRC may not complete their review of the 35 percent confirmatory evaluations submitted in Reference 2) until mid-January 1986.

To avoid unnecessary delays in resuming Fort St. Vrain operation, the NRC is hereby requested to authorize Fort St. Vrain to operate at power levels not to exceed 8 percent of rated thermal power by December 27, 1985. This authorization would enable PSC to continue moisture removal from the Fort St. Vrain core, and place the FSV plant in the best possible condition to resume electrical generation once the NRC review of the 35 percent confirmatory evaluations is complete. The technical and safety basis for this 8 percent authorization would be the same as that permitted by the NRC for 45 days of FSV operation at 8 percent power per the NRC Safety Evaluation enclosed in Reference 3). This previous 45 day FSV 8 percent operational period was successfully concluded in mid-November 1985.

Your approval of this request by December 27, 1985 would be appreciated. Please contact Mr. M.H. Holmes at (303) 480-6960 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,

*R. F. Walker*  
R. F. Walker  
President

RFW/MHH:jmt