



James Knubei  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Nuclear Officer

March 24, 1997  
JPN-97-013

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Mail Stop P1-137  
Washington, DC 20555

SUBJECT: James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant  
Docket No. 50-333  
**Core Spray Internals Inspection**

Reference: EPRI Report (EPRI TR-106740), "BWR Vessel and Internals Project - BWR Core Spray Internals Inspection and Flaw Evaluation Guidelines (BWRVIP-18)," dated July 1996.

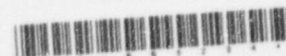
Dear Sir:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the NRC of a change to the scope and techniques of the Core Spray System piping and sparger inspections inside the reactor vessel at the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant. The Authority has performed an augmented visual examination of the piping and spargers during each refueling outage since 1980 as requested by IE Bulletin No. 80-13, "Cracking in Core Spray Spargers," dated May 12, 1980. Effective with the next refuel outage (fall of 1998), the Authority is modifying its Core Spray System piping and sparger inspection program to conform with the guidance developed by the BWR Vessel and Internals Project (BWRVIP) Assessment Committee as presented in the referenced document.

The revisions to this inspection program will focus more attention on the welds and heat affected zones, utilizing enhanced visual examination of the areas where degradation is more likely to occur. These revisions will eliminate the detailed examination of the piping base metal between the welds. The inspections performed during the last refuel outage conform with the BWRVIP guidelines, in addition to Bulletin 80-13 guidance, and will serve as the baseline inspection specified in the guidelines.

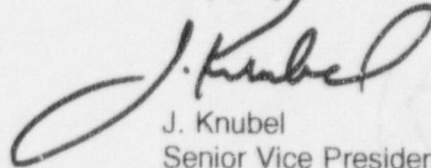
The BWRVIP Committee transmitted the referenced document to the NRC by correspondence dated July 26, 1996, and the inspection program described is currently pending NRC approval. The Authority will incorporate necessary changes to the Core Spray System inspection program based on the NRC review and approval of the referenced document.

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The commitment made by the Authority in this letter is listed in Attachment 1. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. C. D. Faison.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Knubel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

J. Knubel  
Senior Vice President &  
Chief Nuclear Officer

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

Attachment 1 to JPN-97-013

Summary of Commitment

Number	Commitment	Due Date
JPN-97-013-01	Perform inspections of the Core Spray System piping and spargers inside the reactor vessel in accordance with the BWRVIP-18 guidelines, including necessary changes based on NRC review and approval of BWRVIP-18.	Future FitzPatrick refuel outages.