

September 23, 1983

Docket No. 50-333  
(10 CFR 2.206)

Ellyn R. Weiss, Esq.  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
1346 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.  
Suite 1101  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Ms. Weiss:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your letter to the Commission dated September 12, 1983 submitted on behalf of the Union of Concerned Scientists requesting that the Commission take immediate action to shut down the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant. UCS based its request upon recently obtained correspondence which questions the adequacy of pipe supports at FitzPatrick. UCS also requested that action be taken to determine whether the FitzPatrick licensee, the Power Authority of the State of New York, violated 10 CFR Part 21 of the Commission's regulations, or made a material false statement to the Commission regarding the pipe support issue. Your letter has been referred to my office for treatment as a request for action pursuant to section 2.206 of the Commission's regulations. Accordingly, appropriate action will be taken on your petition within a reasonable time.

Your petition asks that the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant be ordered to shut down immediately to enable a full NRC inspection of the pipe supports in question. I decline to take such action at this time for the reasons given below.

My initial determination that the pipe support systems at the FitzPatrick plant do not pose an immediate safety hazard is based on: (1) the licensee's reassessment of the pipe support analyses and corrective actions contained in its response of September 1, 1983 and (2) our inspection of the alleged damaged piping supports. A summary of the actions taken to date is delineated in the following paragraphs.

Prior to the resumption of power on September 2, 1983 from a refueling outage, the licensee provided the following information to the NRC in a letter dated September 1, 1983:

- (1) The results of the licensee's reassessment of the pipe support analyses performed by Target Technology to ensure: (1) the supports are satisfactory for normal operating loads and (2) the supports meet the applicable codes and standards. The licensee stated all supports reviewed were acceptable without modification.

8309280558 830923  
PDR ADOCK 05000333  
P PDR

- (2) The 20 supports identified by Target Technology were inspected by the licensee. Of these, only one support in the main steam system appeared to be damaged. This support was re-evaluated by Stone and Webster (S&W) and confirmed to be acceptable. However, verification of embedments associated with supplemental steel would have required complex and time consuming analyses. In lieu of these analyses, Stone and Webster recommended minor modifications to eliminate the need for the embedments. This modification was completed prior to start-up from the current refueling outage. In addition, a few supports outside of the 20 were found to have some indications of damage. These supports were also evaluated by Stone and Webster. This evaluation determined the cause to be unrelated to the allegations contained in the petition and the supports to be acceptable.
- (3) The licensee has retained United Engineers & Constructors (UE&C) as a third party reviewer. UE&C met with Target Technology to outline the basis for its concerns. Based on the meeting, UE&C developed a review plan which included a representative sample of pipe supports which were reanalyzed in 1979. The sample consists of supports in critical, large diameter, high energy piping systems and includes the main steam line support mentioned above.

The evaluation performed by UE&C consisted of review of the S&W analytical methodology, procedures and calculation packages. In addition, UE&C performed field inspections of certain supports to verify that the as-built and as-analyzed data agreed. To date, UE&C has completed approximately 80% of their review. This includes most of the supports in their sample except for those in the recirculation system. Based on the work completed to date, UE&C has no outstanding findings of significance. UE&C has identified procedural findings associated with the documentation of the field survey and the as-built information used in the piping analyses. These findings have been addressed by the licensee and S&W. Further review will be performed by UE&C to verify the resolution of these findings.

Prior to the resumption of power at the FitzPatrick plant, the NRC staff performed a visual assessment of the majority of the 20 supports specifically identified in the Target Technology letter of June 30, 1983 referenced in the petition. The staff found the supports in question were either free from physical damage or corrective actions had been taken to address any discrepancies noted. Further, the NRC staff had reviewed and accepted the licensee's criteria for its re-evaluation of the 348 individual piping support analyses performed by Target Technology for the licensee.

In addition, the NRC staff contacted the President of Target Technology by telephone on September 16, 1983 to clarify the concerns contained in his letter of June 30, 1983 to the licensee and to obtain his views regarding the immediacy of those concerns. The President of Target Technology characterized his concerns as being long term, on the order of three years in nature rather than immediate.

The staff will continue to review your petition, and I will issue a decision with regard to it within a reasonable time. A copy of the notice that is being filed with the Office of the Federal Register is enclosed here for your information.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by  
H. R. Denton

Harold R. Denton, Director  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
As stated

DISTRIBUTION

Docket File w/incoming w/notice of receipt		HThompson
NRC PDR w/incoming w/notice of receipt		TSpeis
Local PDR w/incoming w/notice of receipt		Grace
ORB#2 Reading		Snyder
EDO Reading	LHarmon	MJambor
HDenton	Schilk, SECY (5)	DNottingham
ECase	Docket and Service Branch, SECY	JHeltemes, AEOD
DEisenhut	HPlaine, GC	WDircks
GLainas	<i>L. Cuoco</i> <del>Murray</del> , OELD	JRoe
DVassallo	ASLAB	TRehm
SNorris	ASLBP	VStello
RHermann	NSIC	RDeYoung
OELD	ACRS (10)	TMurley, RI
CMiles	VYanez	JFunches
Program Support Staff, NRR	TIDC (2)	RVollmer
<i>M. Barker - 13541 (Asst. Dir.)</i>	MBridgers (EDO-13541)	RMattson
<i>13541</i>		

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

DL:ORB#2	DL:ORB#2	DL:ORB#2	DL:AD-OR	OELD	DE:DIR	DL:DIR	NRR:DIR
SNorris:ajs	RHermann	DVassallo	GLainas	<i>S. BURNS</i>	RVollmer	DEisenhut	HDenton
09/26/83	09/30/83	09/20/83	09/20/83	09/20/83	09/20/83	09/20/83	09/23/83

Power Authority of the State of New York  
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant

cc:

Mr. Charles M. Pratt  
Assistant General Counsel  
Power Authority of the State  
of New York  
10 Columbus Circle  
New York, New York 10019

U. S. Environmental Protection  
Agency  
Region II Office  
Regional Radiation Representative  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, New York 10007

Mr. Corbin A. McNeill, Jr.  
Resident Manager  
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear  
Power Plant  
Post Office Box 41  
Lycoming, New York 13093

Manager - Nuclear Licensing - BWR  
Power Authority of the State  
of New York  
123 Main Street  
White Plains, New York 10601

Mr. Robert P. Jones, Supervisor  
Town of Scriba  
R. D. #4  
Oswego, New York 13126

Mr. Leroy W. Sinclair, President  
Power Authority of the State  
of New York  
10 Columbus Circle  
New York, New York 10019

Mr. J. P. Bayne  
Executive Vice President,  
Nuclear Generation  
Power Authority of the State  
of New York  
123 Main Street  
White Plains, New York 10601

Mr. Jay Dunkleberger  
Division of Policy Analysis and Planning  
New York State Energy Office  
Agency Building 2, Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12223

Resident Inspector's Office  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Post Office Box 136  
Lycoming, New York 13093

Mr. A. Klausman  
Vice President - Quality Assurance  
Power Authority of the State  
of New York  
10 Columbus Circle  
New York, New York 10019

Mr. George Wilverding, Chairman  
Safety Review Committee  
Power Authority of the State  
of New York  
123 Main Street  
White Plains, New York 10601

Mr. M. C. Cosgrove  
Quality Assurance Superintendent  
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear  
Power Plant  
Post Office Box 41  
Lycoming, New York 13093

Thomas A. Murley  
Regional Administrator  
Region I Office  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
631 Park Avenue  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406

John Dainora, President  
Target Technology Ltd.  
222 West Lancaster Avenue  
Paoli, Pennsylvania 19301