

December 7, 2001

Mr. Theodore Sullivan  
Vice President - Operations  
Entergy Nuclear Northeast  
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant  
Post Office Box 110  
Lycoming, NY 13093

SUBJECT: FITZPATRICK NUCLEAR POWER STATION - NRC INSPECTION REPORT  
50-333/01-011

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

On November 9, 2001, the NRC completed a team inspection at the James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant. The enclosed report documents the inspection findings which were discussed on November 9, 2001, with Mr. B. O'Grady and other members of your staff.

This inspection was an examination of activities conducted under your license as they relate to the identification and resolution of problems, and compliance with the Commission's rules and regulations and the conditions of your operating license. Within these areas, the inspection involved selected examination of procedures and representative records, observations of activities, and interviews with personnel.

On the basis of the sample selected for review, there were no findings of significance identified during this inspection. Overall, the team found that your staff properly identified, assessed, prioritized, and corrected risk significant equipment and program deficiencies. Quality assurance audits and department self-assessments focused on identifying corrective action program enhancements.

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Sincerely,

**/RA/**

David C. Lew, Chief  
Performance Evaluation Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-333  
License No.: DPR-59

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-333/01-011  
cc w/encl:  
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Mr. Theodore Sullivan

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R. Patch, Acting Director of Oversight

A. Halliday, Licensing Manager

M. Kansler, Chief Operating Officer, Entergy

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J. Tierney, Oswego County Administrator

C. Donaldson, Esquire, Assistant Attorney General, New York Department of Law

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| OFFICE | RI/DRS   |  | RI/DRP  |  | RI/DRS   |  |         |  |         |
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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION I

Docket No: 50-333

License No: DPR-59

Report No: 50-333/01-011

Licensee: Entergy Nuclear Northeast  
Post Office Box 110  
Lycoming, NY 13093

Facility: James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant

Location: 268 Lake Road  
Scriba, New York 13093

Dates: October 22 - November 9, 2001

Inspectors: W. L. Schmidt, Senior Reactor Inspector, Division of Reactor Safety  
(lead)  
R. A. Rasmussen, Senior Resident Inspector  
K. A. Young, Reactor Inspector, Division of Reactor Safety

Approved by: David Lew, Chief  
Performance Evaluation Branch  
Division of Reactor Safety

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

IR 05000333-01-011, on 10/22 - 11/9/2001; Entergy Nuclear Northeast, James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant, Problem Identification and Resolution (PI&R), Corrective Actions Program.

The inspection was conducted by two regional inspectors and one resident inspector. No findings were identified. The NRC evaluates issues using the significance determination process. The significance of most findings is indicated by their color (Green, White, Yellow, or Red) using IMC 0609, "Significance Determination Process" (SDP). Findings for which the SDP does not apply are indicated by "No Color" or by the severity level of the applicable violation.

### Identification and Resolution of Problems

Overall, the team determined that the licensee adequately identified problems and initiated Deviation/Event Reports (DERs) at the proper threshold including the identification of adverse trends or repetitive problems. The licensee adequately evaluated and categorized problems entered into the DER process at the correct significance level, properly considering operability and reportability requirements and the potential extent of conditions. Developed and implemented corrective actions appeared reasonable to address the identified problems. Corrective actions were completed or scheduled to be completed in a timely manner commensurate with the potential significance of the issue. Licensee audits and self-assessments reviewed were objective, in-depth and identified issues to enhance the corrective action process. Actions taken since the last corrective action program inspection appeared effective, including implementation of: the DER screening committee and management review, the corrective action review board, program performance indicators, and the open corrective action backlog reduction effort. These actions had a positive impact in improving the overall review and accountability for identified issues, in improving the quality of causal factor analysis, and in reducing the number of older corrective action program (CAP) items. However, the team noted several minor issues with causal evaluations that lacked rigor, minor program process problems, and several instances of overdue action items.

## Report Details

### **4. OTHER ACTIVITIES (OA)**

#### 4OA2 Problem Identification and Resolution (IP 71152)

##### .1 Effectiveness of Problem Identification

###### a. Inspection Scope

The team reviewed the process for identifying and resolving problems within the licensee's corrective action program (CAP); items entered into this process are referred to as Deviation Event Reports (DERs). The team reviewed DERs and other documents, identified in Attachment 1, to determine the licensee's threshold for identifying problems and entering them as DERs for evaluation and resolution.

The team reviewed items from the licensee's operating, maintenance, and quality assessment processes to determine if personnel were appropriately initiating DERs when problems were identified. The team reviewed a sample of the licensee's pertinent work requests (WR), control room deficiencies, system health reports, results from surveillance tests and preventive maintenance tasks, and operating experience information.

The team also conducted a plant walk-down of safety-related, risk significant areas to verify that observable system equipment and plant material adverse conditions were entered into the CAP. Additionally, the team interviewed plant personnel to discuss technical issues and the use of the CAP.

The inspectors reviewed quality assurance (QA) audit surveillance reports, departmental self-assessments, and an internal analysis of the corrective action program. The review was to determine if assessment findings were entered into the licensee's corrective action program, and to determine if corrective actions were completed to resolve identified program deficiencies.

###### b. Issues and Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

Overall, the team determined that the licensee adequately identified problems and initiated DERs at the proper threshold to allow evaluation. When adverse trends or repetitive problems occurred, the licensee issued trending DERs to determine the cause and initiate corrective action. The licensee's self-assessments and audits were effective in identifying deficiencies in the corrective action program. Assessments noted deficiencies in implementation of the corrective action program in the following areas: ineffective tracking of corrective actions to ensure completion, inadequate DER response and closures, and recurring equipment performance deficiencies due to inadequate corrective actions. The corrective actions for these issues appeared appropriate.

## .2 Prioritization and Evaluation of Issues

### a. Inspection Scope

The team reviewed items selected from the licensee's corrective action processes to determine whether the issues were properly evaluated and resolved. The review included the appropriateness of the assigned significance, the timeliness of resolution, and the scope and depth of the root cause evaluations (or apparent cause evaluations). The samples included issues in risk significant systems including the automatic depressurization system (ADS), safety relief valves (SRVs), and the residual heat removal (RHR) system. The team screened DERs in the licensee's corrective action process and selected those listed in Attachment 1 of this report for detailed review. The review also included an assessment of the backlog of corrective actions to determine if any, individually or collectively, represented an increased risk due to the delay in implementation. The team also reviewed the status and plans to correct equipment performance problems identified through the Maintenance Rule for SRV leakage and 10CFR50, Appendix R, battery powered lights. Additionally, the team attended the licensee's daily DER screening meeting and management meeting to observe the DER review process and the basis for assigning DER significance levels.

The team observed the licensee's implementation of recent initiatives to strengthen the CAP. These initiatives include: 1) a screening committee for DERs and work requests, which meets every morning to discuss, prioritize, and assign the issues raised over the last day; and, 2) a management review of the screening committee recommendations.

### b. Issues and Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

From the samples reviewed, the team concluded that the licensee adequately evaluated and categorized problems entered into the DER process at the correct significance level. The licensee's evaluations were of adequate depth to identify the causes and appropriately broad in considering the extent of condition. The licensee's assessments properly considered operability and reportability requirements. Additionally, the team observed that the DER screening committee and management review improved the overall review and accountability for identified issues. However, the team noted several minor instances where evaluations, as documented in the DER response package, lacked rigor in identifying the cause of the issue.

## .3 Effectiveness of Corrective Actions

### a. Inspection Scope

The team reviewed the corrective actions associated with selected DERs to determine whether the corrective actions addressed the identified causes and were completed or scheduled to be completed in a timely fashion.

The team reviewed DERs for repetitive problems to determine whether previous corrective actions were effective; this included actions on the ADS, SRV and RHR

systems. The team also reviewed the removal of the safety-related 4 KV circuit breakers from the Maintenance Rule enhanced monitoring status.

The team reviewed the DER backlog reduction initiative to determine if there were items that individually or collectively represented an adverse effect on plant risk or an adverse trend in the implementation of the CAP.

The team observed the licensee's implementation of recent initiatives to strengthen the CAP. These initiatives include establishment of the Corrective Action Review Board (CARB), and CAP performance indicators.

b. Issues and Findings

No findings of significance were identified.

Overall, the team concluded the licensee developed and implemented corrective actions that appeared reasonable to address the identified problems. Based on the sample reviewed, the team determined that corrective actions were completed or scheduled to be completed in a timely manner commensurate with the potential significance of the issue. The team did not identify corrective actions in the backlog of work that represented an adverse impact on plant safety. Additionally, the team observed that the CARB and CAP performance indicators improved the quality of causal factor analysis and reduced the number of open CAP items. However, the team identified some minor program issues where the licensee did not adequately process DERs and where some action items were open past their due dates.

.4 Assessment of Safety-Conscious Work Environment

a. Inspection Scope

The team interviewed plant staff to determine if conditions existed that would result in personnel being hesitant to raise safety concerns to their management and/or the NRC.

b. Issues and findings

No findings of significance were identified.



#### 4OA6 Meetings, Including Exit

##### .1 Exit Meeting Summary

The team presented the inspection results to Mr. B. O'Grady and other members of licensee management at the conclusion of the inspection on November 9, 2001. The team asked the licensee whether any materials examined during the inspection should be considered proprietary. None was identified.

Attachment 1: Partial List of Personnel Contacted  
Items Opened, Closed, and Discussed  
List of Acronyms  
List of Documents Reviewed/Referenced

Attachment 1

**PARTIAL LIST OF PERSONNEL CONTACTED****FitzPatrick**

|              |                                  |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| R. Angus     | System Engineer                  |
| V. Bacanskas | Component Engineering Supervisor |
| V. Bhardwaj  | Program and Components Manager   |
| S. Bono      | Corrective Action Manager        |
| C. Brown     | Quality Assurance Supervisor     |
| W. Hendrick  | Quality Assurance                |
| T. Hermann   | Root Cause Coordinator           |
| L. Leiter    | System Engineer                  |
| B. O'Grady   | Plant Operations General Manager |
| J. Pechacek  | Fire Protection Supervisor       |
| M. Perkins   | System Engineer                  |
| T. Savory    | Electrical Design Supervisor     |
| J. Stead     | Component Engineer               |
| A. Zarembo   | General Manager Support          |

**ITEMS OPENED, CLOSED, AND DISCUSSED**

None

**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

|      |                                    |
|------|------------------------------------|
| ADS  | Automatic Depressurization System  |
| CAP  | Corrective Action Program          |
| CARB | Corrective Action Review Board     |
| CS   | Core Spray                         |
| DER  | Deviation and Event Report         |
| EDG  | Emergency Diesel Generator         |
| HPCI | High Pressure Coolant Injection    |
| KV   | Kilovolts                          |
| NRC  | Nuclear Regulatory Commission      |
| OA   | Other Activities                   |
| QA   | Quality Assurance                  |
| RHR  | Residual Heat Removal              |
| SDP  | Significance Determination Process |
| SRV  | Safety Relief Valve                |
| WR   | Work Request                       |

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED/REFERENCED

**\* Indicates CAP Effectiveness Review**

|                       |          |                |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------|
| 00-05732              | 01-01109 | 01-01944       |
| 01-00793              | 01-01141 | 01-02107       |
| 01-01159              | 01-01213 | 01-02222       |
| 01-00308              | 01-01217 | 01-02342       |
| 01-03848              | 01-01218 | 01-02779       |
| 01-04203              | 01-01277 | 01-03935       |
|                       | 01-01345 |                |
| <u>Level B</u>        | 01-01390 | <u>Level C</u> |
| *00-03877             | 01-01484 | *00-04079      |
| *00-03901             | 01-01496 | *00-05692      |
| *00-05323             | 01-01516 | *00-05891      |
| *00-05356             | 01-01582 | *01-02223      |
| *00-05750             | 01-01690 | 00-04163       |
| *01-02117             | 01-01760 | 00-04731       |
| *01-04125             | 01-01774 | 00-05243       |
| *01-00629             | 01-01879 | 00-05440       |
| *01-01570             | 01-01924 | 01-00701       |
| *01-01576             | 01-02104 | 01-01199       |
| *01-01750             | 01-02106 | 01-01504       |
| *01-01880 NCV01-04-01 | 01-02261 | 01-02135       |
| *01-02221             | 01-02640 | 01-00376       |
| *01-02277             | 01-03077 | 01-00789       |
| *0100146              | 01-03204 | 01-00894       |
| 00-03720              | 01-03341 | 01-01035       |
| 00-05112              | 01-03342 | 01-01146       |
| 00-05113              | 01-00173 | 01-02459       |
| 00-05458              | 01-00239 | 01-02974       |
| 00-05851              | 01-00291 | 01-02976       |
| 00-03136 NCV 00-11-03 | 01-00841 | 01-03093       |
| 00-03413              | 01-00841 | 01-03564       |
| 00-03654 NCV 00-11-03 | 01-00848 | 01-03565       |
| 00-03656 NCV 00-11-04 | 01-00931 | 98-01926       |
| 00-03749              | 01-00932 |                |
| 00-03887              | 01-00948 | <u>Level D</u> |
| 00-05276              | 01-01142 | 00-04083       |
| 00-05864              | 01-01238 | 00-05211       |
| 00-05875              | 01-01317 | 00-05487       |
| 01-00005              | 01-01476 | 01-00014       |
| 01-00191              | 01-01477 | 01-01209       |
| 01-00199              | 01-01479 | 01-01808       |
| 01-00317              | 01-01596 | 01-02060       |
| 01-00634              | 01-01693 | 01-03262       |
| 01-00656              | 01-01714 | 01-03263       |
| 01-00845              | 01-01754 | 01-03598       |
| 01-01108              | 01-01893 |                |

Work Requests (WR)

|             |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 99-10411-01 | 00-03250-00 | 01-03005-01 |
| 99-10411-02 | 00-04366-00 | 01-10566-01 |
| 99-01808-00 | 00-06544-01 |             |
| 99-01810-00 | 00-06638-01 |             |

LCO Entry/Engineering Operability Determinations

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| P 01-0523 | Control Room Emergency Ventilation DER 01-01616 |
| P01-1077  | RHRWS Water hammer, DER 01-03476                |

Self-Assessments

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| JENG-01-0427 | Engineering Self-Assessment of Human Performance Issues (2000-2001), September 27, 2001.                                       |
| JPLN-01-042  | Planning Department Self Assessment, July 9, 2001.   |
| JOPS-01-079  | ACT-00-49412 - Assessment of Corrective Action Plans and Progress for Restoring Current Operator Work-arounds, August 8, 2001. |
| JRP-00-225   | Self Assessment/Extent of Condition for DER-00-05643, December 21, 2000.   |
| JOPS-01-085  | Timeliness and Effectiveness of Correcting SRV Electric Lift Modification Issues, September 5, 2001.                           |

Quality Assurance Audits & Surveillance Reports

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| SR NO. 2196 | Quality Assurance Standard Surveillance Report, December 21, 2000 |
|-------------|---|

Procedures

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| AP-03.02 | Deviation and Event Reporting, Rev. 17                |
| AP-03.03 | Deviation and Event Analysis, Rev. 19                 |
| AP-30.08 | Action and Commitment Tracking System, Rev. 15        |
| OP-46A   | 4160V and 600 V Normal AC Power Distribution, Rev. 40 |

Other Documents

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Common Cause Analysis of Equipment Performance Issues (1993-2000), Rev. 1   |   |
| Common Cause Analysis of the FitzPatrick Corrective Action Program April-August, 2000, (DERs: 00-01361, 00-01363 and 00-01390), Approved 8/4/00 |   |
| JAF-ICD-ELEC-04347  | Tolerances for G.E. Electro-Mechanical Overcurrent Relay Calibration, Rev. 0                      |
| JAF-RPT-EDG-04305   | EDG "B" Governor Control Rod Lever Assembly Root Cause Failure Evaluation, June 19, 2001          |
| JAF-RPT-MISC-02751  | Emergency Lighting, May 29, 1997  |
| JTS-APL-97-026  | Maintenance Rule Action Plan (a)(1) System/Components Emergency Battery Lights-System 076, Rev. 6 |
| DER Program Performance Indicators, September 2001  |   |
| JGMPO-APL-01-00   | Corrective Action Backlog Plan, April 27, 2001  |