

JB&B

Jaros Baum & Bolles
Consulting Engineers

Automatic Breach Control Valves
7 World Trade Center
New York, New York
Project No. 12244.0.000

NYC DEPT. OF BUILDINGS
TECHNICAL AFFAIRS
RECEIVED 6391

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C O P Y

Robert V. Benazzi
Partner
212.530.9303

File
7 WTC

November 17, 2004

Chief Howard Hill, DAC
Bureau of Fire Prevention
New York City Fire Department
9 MetroTech Center
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Chief Hill:

Thank you for meeting with us at G.A. Fleet this morning and witnessing the demonstration of the proposed automatic breach control valve (ABCV). We believe the valve demonstration proved that the valve operation as we have described does perform and operates properly. Based on this we would like to arrange for U.L. to witness testing of the valve at the manufacturer's facility. As we indicated, we would have U.L. verify the operation of the valve from 0 to 150% of the design flow and ask U.L. to verify minimum operating pressures that will allow the valve to pass 100% of flow and close tight at 150% of flow.

As discussed, in order to have the manufacturer make the arrangements with U.L., we require from the Fire Department a letter indicating that based upon the test today and our previous discussions, upon successful completion of the U.L. testing, the NYFD will support the use of the valve in the combination standpipe/sprinkler system. As time is of the essence, your prompt response is appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

JAROS, BAUM & BOLLES

RVB:geb

cc: (1) Mr. A. Hsueh
(1) Mr. J. L. Barracato, Jr.
(1) Deputy Commissioner F. Amer
(1) Mr. J. Klein

(1) Mr. A. A. DiGiacomo
(1) Mr. R. V. Benazzi
(1) Mr. J. K. McGarity
(1) File

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7 World Trade Center
Automatic Breech Control Valves

July 26, 2004

Ms. Fatma Amer
Acting Deputy Commissioner for Technical Affairs
New York City Building Department
280 Broadway
New York, New York 10007

Dear Ms. Amer:

Thank you and your staff for meeting with James McGarity of my office and myself to discuss the installation of automatic breach control valves (ABCV's) as well as other enhancements to the fire standpipe and sprinkler systems for this building. We regret that the Fire Department was not present for this meeting but we would welcome the opportunity to make the same presentation to them at MetroTech and appreciate your efforts in the arrangement of this meeting.

As we discussed with you and your staff, the purpose of the ABCV's is to maintain the captive fire reserve in the event of a breach in the fire standpipe piping and to allow the Fire Department upon arrival at the building to isolate the affected standpipe with a minimum of effort, without having to pass the floor of a fire incident, and at a minimum expenditure of time. The valve operates on the basis of pressure differential such that if the fire standpipe is ruptured, the valve senses an increase in pressure drop due to the excessive flow across the valve and automatically closes. This in conjunction with a check valve at the base of the opposite standpipe acts to isolate the affected standpipe from the remainder of the system. Upon arrival of the Fire Department, a gate valve at the base of the affected riser would be closed thus allowing the Fire Department to isolate the ruptured riser and pressurize the remaining system from the Siamese connections or through the use of the manual fire pump. The valve as conceived and designed is a fail-safe valve, i.e. in the event of failure, the valve fails in the open position relegating the system in the same condition as if the valve were not there.

At the end of the meeting, you indicated that pending Fire Department review and comment, your department would be supportive of the installation of these valves with the following comments:

- Special signage indicating that the ABCV's are present was recommended. The preferred location for the signage would be at the Fire Command Center or the Fire Pump Room.
- Position indicators should be incorporated into the design of the ABCV's.
- Special Training for the NYFD would be required.

- A means of testing and maintenance for the ABCV's would need to be developed and documented similar to NFPA 25. All tests and maintenance shall be documented similar to testing dry pipe valves.

We trust the above is an accurate representation of your opinion of the meeting and we await your confirmation of the meeting with you and the Fire Department in order that we may make a similar presentation to them.

Very truly yours,

RVB

cc: (1) Mr. M. Cosentino
(1) Mr. D. Gottfried
(1) Mr. A. Cordes
(1) Mr. A.A. Digiacomo
(1) Mr. R.V. Benazzi
(1) Mr. J. K. McGarity
(1) File