

MAR 13 1970

Docket No. 50-220

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
300 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13202

Attention: Mr. Minot H. Pratt
Vice President and
Executive Engineer

Gentlemen:

Your telegram dated March 10, 1970, requested a temporary change of Section 2.1.1.d of the Technical Specifications for the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Provisional Operating License No. DPR-17, to permit lowering the reactor vessel water level. To facilitate the removal and subsequent replacement of a portion of the stainless steel safe-end of the core spray nozzle, it is necessary to lower the reactor vessel water to a level of three feet ten inches above the active fuel which corresponds to an elevation of 294 feet. This level is ten inches lower than the lowest level presently allowed by the Technical Specifications. Although these levels are slightly different (2") than those stated in your request, Mr. P. A. Burt of the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation has confirmed that the changes are appropriate and will not significantly affect the results of your technical evaluation of the proposed change. We have designated your request Proposed Change No. 3.

We understand that continuous surveillance of the reactor vessel water level will be maintained by a manometer loop and underwater closed circuit television, and that appropriate written procedures will be implemented to assure that the water level is maintained at or above an elevation of 294 feet as described in your request. Adequate core cooling will be provided at the lower level by the shutdown cooling system.

On this basis, we have concluded that lowering the water level in accordance with the procedures described does not involve significant hazards

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E. R. Fleury, R. Vollmer
C. J. DeBevec, R. Diggs

Change No. 3
License No. DPR-17

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MAR 13 1970

considerations not described or implicit in the safety analysis report and there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered.

Accordingly, you are hereby authorized to lower the reactor vessel water level to no less than three feet ten inches above the active fuel (elevation 294) for the purpose of removal and repair of the core spray nozzle safe-ends.

You have indicated that the reactor will not be operated without prior notification of the Commission. In this respect, we expect to receive your report of your repair plans and the significant results of your investigation and evaluation of the safe-ends as soon as it is available. However, operation of the reactor should not be resumed until we have evaluated your report and determined that no significant hazards considerations exist.

You have agreed to provide us with a sample from the affected pipe so that we may conduct an independent metallurgical investigation. Our Division of Compliance personnel will make arrangements with the plant staff to procure the sample. The results of our investigation will be made available to you.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Peter A. Morris

Peter A. Morris, Director
Division of Reactor Licensing

cc: Arvin E. Upton, Esquire
LeBoeuf, Lamb, Leiby and MacRae
1821 Jefferson Place, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

NOTE: ^{sp.?} Dr. Mann called Mr. Schneider, V.P., Niagara Mohawk and read last three paragraphs. 3/13/70

SEE ATTACHED YELLOW FOR CONCURRENCE

Dispatched 3/16/70

OFFICE ▶	DRL	DRL	DRL	DRL	DRL	DR
SURNAME ▶	CJDeBevec	RMDiggs ERFleury	DLZiemann	DJSkovholt FSchroeder	PAMorris	MMann
DATE ▶	3/12/70	3/ /70	3/ /70	3/ /70	3/13/70	3/13/70

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Accordingly, you are hereby authorized to lower the reactor vessel water level to no less than three feet ten inches above the active fuel (elevation 294) for the purpose of removal and repair of the core spray nozzle safe-ends.

You have indicated that the reactor will not be operated without prior notification of the Commission. In this respect, we ~~would appreciate~~ *expect* being apprised of your repair plans and significant results of your investigation and evaluation of the safe-ends as soon as they are available. *However, operation of the reactor should not be resumed until we have reviewed your report and determined that no significant hazards considerations exist.* Sincerely,

to receive your report

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Washington, D. C. 20036

OFFICE ▶	DRL	DRL	DRL	DRL	DRL	DRL
SURNAME ▶	<i>CJD</i> CJDeBevec:pd	RMDiggs ERFleury	<i>3/12</i> DLZiemann	<i>3/12</i> DJSkovholt	FSchroeder	PAMorris
DATE ▶	3/12/70	3/12/70	3/12/70	3/12/70	3/ /70	3/ /70

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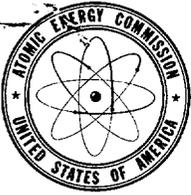
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SURNAME ▶	CJDeBevec	RMDiggs ERFleury	DLZiemann	DJSkovholt	FSchroeder	PAMorris
DATE ▶	3/12/70	3/ /70	3/ /70	3/ /70	3/ /70	3/ /70



UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

March 13, 1970

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License No. DPR-17

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