

No. 75

Date 11/24/72

50-220

DIRECTORATE OF REGULATORY OPERATIONS
NOTIFICATION OF AN INCIDENT OR OCCURRENCE

Facility: NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION (NINE MILE POINT 1)

Problem:

RO Region I (Newark) was informed by the licensee by telephone on November 19, 1972, that a primary system safety valve had actuated earlier that day following a reactor scram at the Nine Mile Point reactor. The actuation of the valve resulted in release of primary steam to the containment drywell. The following preliminary information was provided by the licensee:

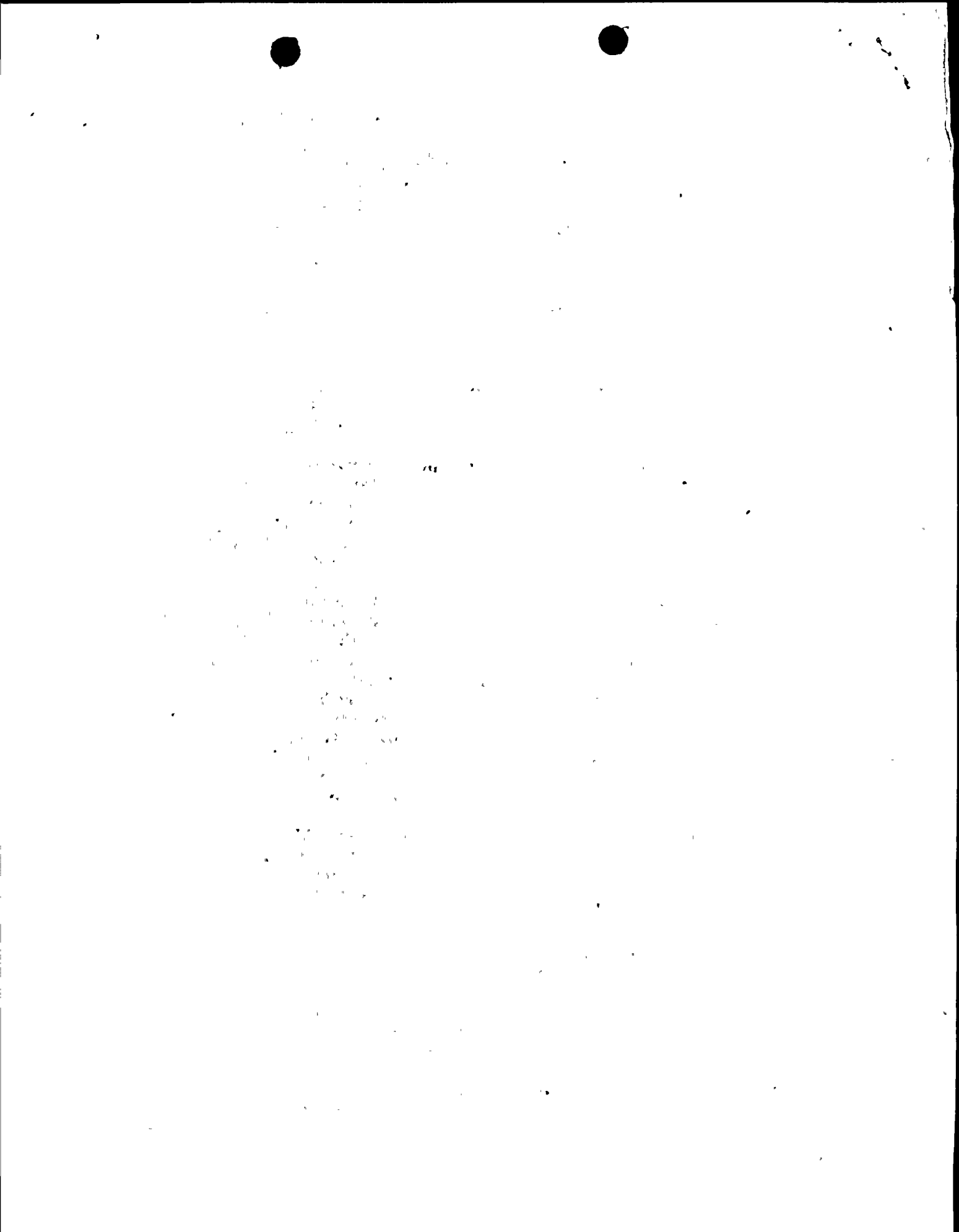
At 5:30 a.m. on November 19, 1972, with the reactor operating at full power (620 Mwe), a turbine trip occurred resulting in a reactor scram. The turbine trip resulted from a faulty bypass switch in the turbine protective circuitry. During the ensuing transient, reactor pressure increased to a maximum of 1083 psig, at which point one of the safety valves installed on the reactor vessel head (setpoint 1226 psig), opened prematurely for a period of 9 seconds. The drywell pressure increased to 2.6 psig and the maximum drywell temperature was 120°F. There was no significant change in reactor water level and the occurrence did not initiate actuation of any of the engineered safeguards. Approximately 300 gallons of primary water were collected in the drywell floor drain collector tank. Containment integrity was maintained until the atmosphere in the drywell had been sampled to determine that radioactivity levels were sufficiently low to permit release. The effect of the steam release was limited to minor insulation damage on the reactor vessel head and some of the paint on the drywell wall. No significant radioactivity releases to the environs or personnel exposures resulted from the occurrence.

The plant is presently in the cold shutdown condition. The cause of the premature actuation of the safety valve is being investigated by the licensee. The licensee plans to return the reactor to power following replacement of the malfunctioning safety valve and completion of the investigation of the occurrence.

Action:

1. An RO inspector is at the site to obtain detailed information on the occurrence. Further action by RO will be based on the results of the inspection.
2. The state of New York and the Northeast Office of the Division of Public Information have been informed by telephone.
3. Commissioner Ramey's Technical Assistant, Commissioner Doub's Technical Assistant and the Staff of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy are being informed by copy of this notification.

Memo



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Contact:

Further information on this problem can be obtained from:

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