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Docket No. 50-410

AUG 1 6 1976

Mr. Gerald K. Rhode
Vice President-Engineering
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
300 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13202

Dear Mr. Rhode:

This is in response to your submittal of July 19, 1976 transmitting 5 copies of the Report on Circulating Water Cooling System Employing a Natural Draft Cooling Tower, Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, July 1976.

A change from once-through cooling to a cooling tower system would involve substantial changes in the cost-benefit analysis performed prior to issuance of the construction permit. There would also be environmental impacts which we have never assessed in detail. Authorization for construction of the facility using a cooling tower system as opposed to the once-through presently authorized by construction permit CPPR-112 will therefore require your filing an application for amendment of your construction permit. We would pre-notice our consideration of your application and provide opportunity for intervention. We would also consider whether it would be necessary to recirculate the final environmental statement.

In addition to the reevaluation of our environmental assessment under NEPA, the staff will also have to consider any safety issues which may be occasioned by the proposed revision.

Sincerely,
Original Signed by
Regis R. Boyle

for Wm. H. Regan, Jr., Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 3
Division of Site Safety and
Environmental Analysis

cc: (see attached list)

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SURNAME	JNorris:aj	WKane	DVassallo	WDPatton	WRegan for	
DATE	8/6/76	8/6/76	8/16/76	8/9/76	8/16/76	

cc: Arvin E. Upton, Esquire
LeBoeuf, Lamb, Leiby & MacRae
1757 N. Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Miss Juanita Kersey, Librarian
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Mr. Richard Goldsmith
Syracuse University
College of Law
E. I. White Hall Campus
Syracuse, New York 13210

Dr. William E. Seymour
Staff Coordinator
New York State Atomic Energy Council
New York State Department of Commerce
99 Washington Street
Albany, New York 12210

Anthony Z. Roisman, Esquire
Berkin, Roisman & Kessler
1712 N. Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

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