MAR 2 8 1977

Docket No. 50-220

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

Gentlemen:

RE: NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION UNIT NO. 1

In our review of reports submitted by licensees concerning malfunctions of diesel generators, we find that in some cases the information available to the control room operator to indicate the operational status of the diesel generator may be imprecise and could lead to misinterpretation. This can be caused by the sharing of a single annunciator station by alarms that indicate conditions that render a diesel generator unable to respond to an automatic emergency start signal and alarms that only indicate a warning of abnormal, but not disabling, conditions. Another cause can be the use of wording on an annunicator window that does not specifically say that a diesel generator is inoperable (i.e., unable at the time to respond to an automatic emergency start signal) when in fact it is inoperable for that purpose.

We, therefore, request that you review the alarm circuitry and diesel generator control circuitry for the diesel generators at your facility to determine how each condition that renders a diesel generator unable to respond to an automatic emergency start signal is alarmed in the control room. These conditions include not only the trips that lock out the diesel generator start and require manual reset, but also control switch or mode switch positions that block automatic start, loss of control voltage, insufficient starting air pressure or battery voltage, etc. This review should consider all aspects of possible diesel generator operational conditions, for example test conditions and operation from local control stations. One area of particular concern is the unreset condition following a manual stop at the local station which terminates a diesel generator test prior to resetting the diesel generator controls for enabling subsequent automatic operation.

Please respond within 45 days of your receipt of this letter by providing the following information:

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DATE➤						

(a) all conditions that render the diesel generator incapable of responding to an automatic emergency start signal as discussed above;

(b) the wording on the annunicator window in the control room that is alarmed for each of the conditions identified in (a);

(c) any other alarm signals that also cause the same annunicator to alarm;

(d) any condition that renders the diesel generator incapable of responding to an automatic emergency start signal which is not alarmed in the control room; and

(e) any proposed modifications resulting from this evaluation.

Sincerely,

George Lear, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Operating Reactors

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