JAN 3 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

We have noted a potential deficiency in the method being used to confirm valve operability during periodic testing of Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) safety-relief valves. This deficiency concerns the use of the safety-relief valve temperature indication as a positive method of confirmation that a safety-relief valve is open when manually actuated during surveillance testing.

We have found that an increased temperature indication may be obtained at the safety-relief valve exit with the safety-relief valve closed. This indicated temperature increase is the result of steam vented through the valve actuation mechanism during the surveillance test. In view of this finding, we have concluded that a temperature increase at the valve exit, by itself does not provide a positive means of verification that the safety-relief valve has opened.

We have reviewed your Technical Specifications and have determined that they do not provide adequate surveillance requirements to assure safety-relief valve operability. Therefore, we require that you eliminate this potential deficiency in your surveillance testing program. You should propose a change to your technical specifications that provides a positive means of verification that the safety-relief valve opens when tested as part of the Automatic Depressurization System. An example of an acceptable method would involve the manual actuation of each individual safety-relief valve at one or more specified pressures and observing a specified minimum compensating turbine bypass or throttle valve closure or change in measured steam flow rate.

mby

OFFICE➤						
SURNAME➤						
DATE➤						

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Please submit your proposed Technical Specification changes within 60 days of your receipt of this letter. Your submittal should include the basis for your proposal and in particular should address the adequacy of the method proposed to positively assess the opening of safety-relief valves.

Sincerely,

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

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

Anthony Z. Roisman, Esquire
Roisman, Kessler and Cashdan
1025 15th Street, N. W.
5th Floor
Washington, D. C. 20005

Mr. Eugene G. Saloga, Applicant Coordinator
Nine Mile Point Energy Information Center
P. O. Box 81
Lycoming, New York 13093

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