DISTRIBUTION:
NRC PDR
Local PDR
Docket
ORB#3 Rdg
EGCase
AGiambusso
CJDeBevec
GLear
SATeets (w/incoming)
MGroff (NRR-70)
EHughes (w/incoming)
EPeyton
Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.
NRR Rdg

Docket No. 50-220

APR 2 1975

Ms. Ruth Caplan, President
Ecology Action of Oswego
Box 94
Oswego, New York 13126

Dear Ms. Caplan:

Your letter dated March 5, 1975 to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requested information on what the NRC is doing about the spent fuel storage problem at the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation's Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Unit 1. You also requested NRC's opinion of Niagara Mohawk's use of a potentially unsafe storage area in the event of an emergency.

The design capacity of the Nine Mile Point Unit 1 spent fuel storage pool reflects industry practice and provides for the storage of fuel assemblies equivalent to about one and one-half core loadings. At the present time there is just over one-half (i.e., 56 percent) of a full core loading stored in the pool. Provisions for onsite storage facilities for spent fuel, including assurance of subcritical arrays, adequacy of cooling, provisions for handling fuel assemblies and spent fuel shipping casks and analyses of potential consequences of postulated accidents are evaluated during our review of applications for construction permits and operating licenses. We have found the Nine Mile Point Unit 1 spent fuel storage pool and its intended function to be acceptable.

As noted, sufficient storage space is not available in the spent fuel pool at Nine Mile Point Unit 1 to store all of the fuel presently contained in the reactor core. If the available storage space is filled and additional fuel cannot be unloaded from the reactor core, a delay in the return of the reactor to power operation could result, however, we do not consider this to be a safety problem.

The NRC is aware that Niagara Mohawk is considering different solutions to the storage problem, including modifications to the control rod storage racks that would increase onsite storage capacity. In this regard, other nuclear power facility licensees are considering various approaches toward the alleviation of their similar problems. To date, Niagara Mohawk has not submitted any requests for approval of proposed changes in the Nine Mile Point Unit 1 facility to increase the onsite spent fuel storage capacity. If and when they propose to make changes, including the use of the control rod storage racks to increase the

SEE PREVIOUS YELLOW FOR CONCURRENCE CHAIN

OFFICE▷	ORB#3					NRR
SURNAME▷	CJDeBevec:kmf					EGCase
DATE▷	4/2/75					4/4/75

DISTRIBUTION:
NRC PDR
Local PDR
Docket
ORB#3 Rdg
EGCase
AGiambusso
CJDeBevec
GLear
SATeets (w/incoming)
MGroff (NRR-70)
EHughes (w/incoming)
EPeyton
Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.
NRR Rdg

Docket No. 50-220

Ms. Ruth Caplan, President
Ecology Action of Oswego
Box 94
Oswego, New York 13126

Dear Ms. Caplan:

Your letter dated March 5, 1975 to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requested information on what the NRC is doing about the spent fuel storage problem at the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation's Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Unit 1. You also requested NRC's opinion of Niagara Mohawk's use of a potentially unsafe storage area in the event of an emergency.

The design capacity of the Nine Mile Point Unit 1 spent fuel storage pool reflects industry practice and provides for the storage of fuel assemblies equivalent to about one and one-half core loadings. At the present time there is just over one-half (i.e., 56 percent) of a full core loading stored in the pool. Provisions for onsite storage facilities for spent fuel, including assurance of subcritical arrays, adequacy of cooling, provisions for handling fuel assemblies and spent fuel shipping casks and analyses of potential consequences of postulated accidents are evaluated during our review of applications for construction permits and operating licenses. We have found the Nine Mile Point Unit 1 spent fuel storage pool and its intended function to be acceptable.

As noted, sufficient storage space is not available in the spent fuel pool at Nine Mile Point Unit 1 to store all of the fuel presently contained in the reactor core. If the available storage space is filled and additional fuel cannot be unloaded from the reactor core, a delay in the return of the reactor to power operation could result, however, we do not consider this to be a safety problem.

The NRC is aware that Niagara Mohawk is considering different solutions to the storage problem, including modifications to the control rod storage racks that would increase onsite storage capacity. In this regard, other nuclear power facility licensees are considering various approaches toward the alleviation of their similar problems. To date, Niagara Mohawk has not submitted any requests for approval of proposed changes in the Nine Mile Point Unit 1 facility to increase the onsite spent fuel storage capacity. If and when they propose to make changes, including the use of the control rod storage racks to increase the

OFFICE▷	ORB#3	SEE PREVIOUS YELLOW	FOR CONCURRENCE	CHAIN.		DRL:AD/ORs
SURNAME▷	CJDeBevec:kmf			EGCase		KRGoller
DATE▷	3/31/75			/ /75		3/26/75

onsite storage capacity, the NRC will review and evaluate the proposal in accordance with existing regulations to establish that there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered.

I hope that these comments are responsive to your enquiry. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By
K. R. Goller

Karl R. Goller, Assistant Director
for Operating Reactors
Division of Reactor Licensing

OFFICE▷						
SURNAME▷						
DATE▷						

DISTRIBUTION:
NRC PDR
Local PDR
Docket
ORB#3 Rdg
NRR Rdg
EGCase
AGiambusso
CJDeBevec
GLear
SATeets (w/incoming)
MGroff XXX (NRR-70)
EHughes (w/ incoming)
EPeyton
Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.

Docket No. 50-220

Ms. Ruth Caplan, President
Ecology Action of Oswego
Box 94
Oswego, New York 13126

Dear Ms. Caplan:

Your letter dated March 5, 1975 to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requested information on what the NRC is doing about the spent fuel storage problem at the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation's Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Unit 1. You also requested NRC's opinion of Niagara Mohawk's use of a potentially unsafe storage area in the event of an emergency.

As you have noted, storage space is not available in the spent fuel storage pool at Nine Mile Point Unit 1 to store all of the fuel presently contained in the reactor core. The design capacity of the Nine Mile Point Unit 1 fuel storage pool reflects industry practice and does not reflect an NRC requirement. There is no NRC requirement for providing or retaining spent fuel storage space in onsite storage facility pools. Any proposed provisions for onsite storage facilities for spent fuel, including assurance of subcritical arrays, adequacy of cooling, provisions for handling fuel assemblies and spent fuel shipping casks and analyses of potential consequences of postulated accidents are evaluated during our review of applications for construction permits and operating licenses. We also review any licensee proposal for increased capability to store spent fuel when the proposal involves an "unreviewed safety question" or a change in the facility's "Technical Specifications" (the latter is a part of the operating license).

The NRC does not consider the present lack of space to store a full core in the Nine Mile Point Unit 1 spent fuel pool to be a safety problem. We have already reviewed and found this storage facility and its intended function to be acceptable.

If the available storage space is filled and additional fuel must be unloaded from the reactor core, the lack of storage space at the facility could result in a delay in the return of the reactor to power operation. A delay in the return of a reactor to power operation following a shutdown for fuel reloading is not an unsafe condition.

OFFICE ➤	ORB#3	ORB#3	DRL:AD/ORs	ORB	D:DRL	NRR
SURNAME ➤	CJDeBevec:kmf	GLear GL	KRGoller KRG	TJCarter	AGiambusso	EGCase
DATE ➤	3/24/75	3/25/75	3/26/75	3/26/75	3/26/75	3/ /75

Form AEC-318 (Rev. 9-53) AECM 0240 ☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1974-526-166

Niaga a Mob wk Power Co

The NRC is aware that Niagara Mohawk is considering different solutions to the storage problem, including modifications to the control rod storage racks that would increase onsite storage capacity. In this regard, other nuclear power facility licensees are considering various approaches toward the alleviation of their similar problems.

To date, Niagara Mohawk has not submitted any requests for approval of proposed changes in the Nine Mile Point Unit 1 facility to increase the onsite spent fuel storage capacity. If and when they propose to make changes, including the use of the control rod storage racks to increase the onsite storage capacity, the NRC will review and evaluate the proposal in accordance with existing regulations to establish that there is reasonable assurance that the health and safety of the public will not be endangered.

I hope that these comments are responsive to your enquiry. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Karl R. Goller, Assistant Director
for Operating Reactors
Division of Reactor Licensing

OFFICE➤						
SURNAME➤						
DATE➤						