

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

NIAGARA  MOHAWK

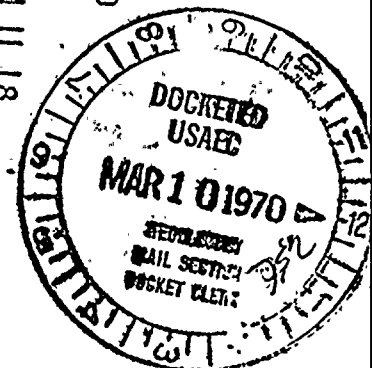
300 ERIE BOULEVARD WEST
SYRACUSE, N.Y. 13202

March 6, 1970

U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMM.
REGULATORY
MAIL & RECORDS SECTION

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RECEIVED



Dr. Peter A. Morris, Director
Division of Reactor Licensing
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Dr. Morris:

Subject: Provisional Operating License DPR-17
Docket 50-220

Regulatory
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This is to notify you of a situation in which we exceeded the Technical Specifications for Nine Mile Point.

On February 26, 1970, a batch of radioactive waste was accidentally pumped out at a flow rate which resulted in an instantaneous concentration of 1.32×10^{-6} $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ gross beta in our effluent. This condition existed for approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

This situation occurred because a mistake was made in interpreting the graph which is part of the waste discharge procedures. In addition, the hi-hi alarm on the waste discharge monitor was not noticed. This occurred because waste was being discharged on an almost continuous basis on February 26 and most of this waste exceeded the hi alarm point (1×10^{-7} $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$). When the hi alarm is in and the annunciator is acknowledged, an increase to the hi-hi alarm (1×10^{-6} $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$) does not give another audible annunciator alarm.

The fact that the waste discharge in excess of the Technical Specifications had taken place was detected on a routine audit of the waste records on March 4, 1970. This discharge resulted in a daily average activity of 2.01×10^{-7} $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ in the effluent. The monthly average activity in the effluent was 3.06×10^{-8} $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$, and the running 52-week average activity was 1.92×10^{-8} $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ at the end of February 26.

Although no specific analysis was made on this tank, the specific analyses on typical waste samples have been running quite consistent. Based on these typical analyses, this discharge would consist of 5.4×10^{-7} $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ Co-58, 1.8×10^{-7} $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ Co-60, 2.27×10^{-6} $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ Cr-51, 8.4×10^{-7} $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ Mn-54, 5.2×10^{-7} $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ Fe-59. The total activity (1.32×10^{-6} $\mu\text{Ci/ml}$ gross beta) does not exceed any of the MPC's for these nuclides.



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To prevent a reoccurrence, we have reviewed the waste discharge procedure with all the Station Shift Supervisors and are making a revision to the waste discharge monitors so that the hi-hi alarm will give an additional audible annunciator alarm.

Very truly yours,

F. J. Schneider

F. J. Schneider
Vice President - Operations

mjs



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