

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTION AND ENFORCEMENT

Region I

Report No. 78-08

Docket No. 50-410

License No. CPPR-112 Priority -- Category A-2

Licensee: Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC)

300 Erie Boulevard, West

Syracuse, New York

Facility Name: Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (NMP-2)

Inspection at: Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Scriba, New York

Inspection conducted: September 25-29, 1978

Inspectors: M. M. Shanbaky
M. M. Shanbaky, Radiation Specialist

November 6, 1978
date signed

date signed

date signed

Approved by: J. P. Stohr
J. P. Stohr, Chief, Environmental and
Special Projects Section, FF&MS Branch

November 7, 1978
date signed

Inspection Summary:

Inspection on September 25-29, 1978 (Report No. 50-410/78-08)

Areas Inspected: Routine, unannounced inspection of the environmental program (construction phase) including: the determination of the status of implementation of each of the Construction Permit requirements; the verification of the Construction Permit requirements; and, the management controls and procedures for implementing the environmental protection program during site preparation and construction. The inspection involved 17 inspector-hours onsite by one NRC regionally based inspector.

Results: Of the three areas inspected, no items of noncompliance were identified.

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DETAILS

1. Persons Contacted

- *T. J. Perkins, Station Superintendent, NMP-1
- S. H. Haybrook, NMPC Site Representative, NMPC
- G. E. Sanford, Manager of Construction Coordination
- J. F. Barrett, Resident Manager, Stone and Webster, S&W
- *T. S. Farrell, Construction Engineer, S&W
- *H. J. Mastin, Construction Engineer, NMPC
- *E. W. Leach, Supervisor, Radiochemistry and Radiation Protection, NMP-1
- *M. C. Hedrick, Assistant Supervisor, Site Environmental Protection, NMP-1

* denotes those present at the exit interview.

2. Licensee Action on Previous Inspection Findings

(Closed) Noncompliance (77-09-01): Failure to follow the settling basins operating procedures. The inspector examined the licensee's corrective actions as described in the licensee's letter to the NRC, dated September 26, 1977. The inspector determined that the settling basins were operated in accordance with the site procedures during the working days of the week. Other actions to prevent recurrence of the previously noted inadequacy in this area were completed. (See also Details, 5.a).

3. General

The inspection consisted of a review of the licensee's program to protect the environment during site preparation and construction and included a review of selected program requirements, related procedures and records, discussions with licensee and contractor personnel, and observations by the inspector. The licensee's requirements in this area are specified in Sections 3.C and 3.E of the Construction Permit, CPPR-112.

4. Determination of Implementation Status of the Construction Permit Requirements

Upon arrival at the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2 (NMP-2) construction site, the inspector toured the area and examined the prevailing conditions at the site and the surrounding environment.



The inspector examined the waterfront at Lake Ontario, discharge points, soil and vegetation at the site, erosion/sedimentation measures taken at the site, solid waste management and spoils area, oil storage areas, sewage treatment plant operations and dust and noise level at the site and the surrounding areas.

The inspector discussed with the licensee and contractor personnel the status of implementation of each of the construction permit requirements; the schedule for initiation of new major construction projects having potential for significant adverse environmental impact; and the current major ongoing construction activities.

The licensee stated that the required control program, which provides for periodic review of all construction activities to assure conformance with the environmental conditions of the Construction Permit, is implemented through Construction Site Instructions (CSI), via Stone and Webster onsite personnel on a daily basis, and through at least monthly meetings and inspections by the Site Environmental Committee, composed of NMPC and SWEC site and corporate representatives. The inspector reviewed the records of the monthly committee inspections/meetings and determined that areas requiring corrective actions were identified and followed to assure completion or resolution of the item.

No items of noncompliance were identified.

5. Verification of the Implementation of the Construction Permit Requirements

The inspector verified the implementation of the applicable requirements by visual observations of site activities and conditions and through the review of the available records. The inspector's examination of site conditions/activities included:

- a. Settling Basin Operations - The inspector discussed with the licensee and contractor the operation of settling basins used to control the dewatering effluents. The licensee stated that the basins were alternately filled and allowed to settle for at least eight hours before being discharged. Effluent samples were collected and analyzed with at least the frequency specified by the NPDES Permit, as determined from discussions with licensee and contractor personnel and by review of the analytical results.



The inspector examined the settling basins and noted that the system will provide for adequate settling of suspended matter for the scheduled dewatering and construction operations. The two settling basins (500,000 gallons each) were provided with a valving system to control the flow of effluent from one settling basin to the other and to control the rate of effluent discharge.

The inspector reviewed the settling basins operation procedures (CSI 2.5) and noted that Section 5.2.2 of these procedures requires that no pumpline valve shall be in the open position when the discharge valve to that specific settling basin is in the open position. The operation of these valves is permitted only by the Site Environmental Engineer or his designee. These procedures will provide for adequate settling time (8 hours) prior to effluent discharge.

The inspector reviewed the settling basins operation, for the period from September, 1977 to September, 1978, and noted that during the working days of the week, the settling basins were operated in accordance with the control program (J. O. No. 12187) operating procedures. The inspector noted that during weekends, the settling basins were not operated in accordance with the above procedures in that the basins influent and effluent valves were simultaneously left open during the weekends. The licensee stated that discharges from the settling basins during weekends were sampled and analyzed, and the results showed that the effluent will meet the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Discharge Permit limits (SPDES). The licensee stated that due to the lack of construction activity during weekends, the influent to the settling basins would meet the required quality limits.

The inspector stated that until the site environmental protection program is upgraded to assure adequate controls of effluent discharges during weekends and labor disputes, this item is considered unresolved (78-08-01).

- b. Use of Pesticides - The inspector discussed with the licensee the use of pesticides at the site and the surrounding areas. The licensee stated that only mosquito control insecticides are used during the mosquito season. The licensee stated that before the use of any pesticides at the site, the Site

Environmental Engineer will verify by call to the State DEC, that the pesticide is approved by both the State and by the EPA. The licensee stated that the manufacturer's instructions for dilution, application rates and frequency were followed. The inspector reviewed the licensee's procedures for the use of pesticides and noted that the procedures were very general and did not include the actual controls which were implemented by the licensee. The licensee stated that these procedures will be upgraded to reflect the safety, handling, preparation and application aspects of pesticides. The inspector stated that until these procedures are upgraded, this item is considered unresolved (78-08-02).

- c. Solid Wastes Disposal - The inspector examined the solid wastes disposal operations and the spoils areas. The inspector noted that the North of Lake Road disposal area was still being used for wastes disposal. The South of Lake Road disposal area (10 acres) was graded, provided with drainage system and seeded. The area was maintained as close as possible in its original natural condition. The minor erosion problems identified during the previous NRC environmental inspection (77-07) were corrected. The inspector had no further questions in this area at this time.
- d. Lake-Front Areas - The inspector observed the waterfront areas had no storage of materials that could be washed or eroded into the lake. No evidence of construction-related erosion was noted in this area.
- e. Dewatering Activities - The inspector discussed with the licensee the method of dewatering excavations, the collection of this water and its control to limit its impact on the environment. The licensee stated that all dewatering discharges are pumped to the settling basins. The inspector noted the pumps' discharge lines to the basins.
- f. Dusting - The inspector noted the roadways and parking lots were swept (if paved) and/or watered frequently to minimize dusting during construction. At the time of the inspection, the inspector noted that the site roads and the solid waste disposal area were sprinkled with water to minimize dusting.



- g. Noise - The inspector reviewed the records of noise levels associated with construction activities. The records indicated that the noise levels have been within an acceptable range. Noise levels recorded at the site during high construction activity showed that the sound levels ranged between 40 and 50 DBA.
- h. Storage of Oil, Chemicals and Fuel - The inspector noted that storage of oil, chemicals and fuel on the construction site was performed such that any spills would be contained by barriers or cofferdams. The licensee stated that in addition to the precautionary oil handling practices implemented at the site, oil spill control materials are available to be used in case of minor oil spill. The inspector toured the warehouse and noted that the licensee possesses an adequate stock of oil spill control materials including oil booms and absorbent material. In addition, the licensee has a list of oil spill control specialists. The inspector noted no evidence of oil spills at the site and the surrounding areas.
- i. Sanitary Waste Disposal - The inspector discussed with the licensee the disposal of wastes from the NMP-2 site. The licensee stated that during early construction and until August, 1977, the sanitary wastes were pumped from holding tanks by a local contractor and were hauled offsite to an approved sanitary waste treatment facility. The licensee stated that as of August, 1977, the onsite sewage treatment plant became operational and the site wastes were treated prior to discharge. The licensee stated that effluents from the sewage treatment plant were discharged in accordance with the site SPDES Permit. The plant was designed for 2200 individuals with a design flow of 35,000 gallons per day. The inspector examined the onsite sewage treatment plant and noted that the plant effluents were adequately chlorinated prior to discharge. The inspector had no further questions in this area at this time.
- j. Concrete Batch-Plant Operations - The inspector observed concrete wash-out ponds were in use to control the quality of water discharged from these operations. The inspector noted that these ponds appeared to function satisfactorily, however, evidence of runoff effluent from this area to the adjacent ditch was noted at the time of the inspection. The licensee stated that during heavy rain some runoff from this area will



reach the adjacent ditch, however, during normal conditions and operations the effluent will be collected in the area basins. The inspector noted that the waste and reject concrete were disposed of at a designated spoils area.

No items of noncompliance were identified.

6. Management Controls and Program Implementation Procedures

The inspector discussed with the licensee the management controls to implement the environmental program. The licensee stated that the NMPC personnel review and SWEC procedures (CSI) essentially represent the required environmental program. The inspector reviewed the CSIs pertinent to this program and determined that the basic elements of responsibility assignments and program requirements were included. The inspector reviewed the program procedures and results, and noted that the program appeared to provide for adequate controls and protection measures during the construction phase of the facility.

No items of noncompliance were identified.

7. Unresolved Items

Unresolved items are matters about which more information is required in order to ascertain whether they are acceptable items; items of noncompliance or deviations. Two unresolved items were disclosed during this inspection. These items are discussed in Paragraphs 5.a and 5.b.

8. Exit Interview

The inspector met with the licensee and contractor representatives (denoted in paragraph 1) at the conclusion of the inspection on September 29, 1978. The inspector summarized the purpose and the scope of the inspection and the inspection findings.

