NIAGARA MOHAWK

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION/300 ERIE BOULEVARD WEST, SYRACUSE, N.Y. 13202/TELEPHONE (315) 474-1511

June 19, 1979

Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region I
Attn: Mr. R. T. Carlson, Chief
Reactor Construction and Engineering
Support Branch
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Mr. Carlson:

Re: Nine Mile Point Unit 2
Docket No. 50-410

On May 18, 1979 Mr. A. C. Cerne of your staff was informed by telephone that Niagara Mohawk was evaluating a condition which may be a reportable deficiency under 10CFR50.55(e). This condition concerned inadequate non-destructive examination of circumferential K-type butt seam welds in the containment liner lower knuckle assembly and the base ring embedments T-welds. Subsequently, on May 25, 1979, Mr. L. Narrow of your staff was notified by telephone that we were expanding our evaluation to include the following ultrasonic testing performed by the containment liner manufacturer, Graver Tank and Manufacturing Company:

1) Knuckle Vertical Seam Welds
2) Penetrations - Flued Head to Sleeve Weld
3) Beam Seats
4) Penetrations - Collar to Pipe (T-weld)
5) Floor Plate
6) Instrument Penetration - Adapter to Sleeve Weld.

The attached serves as our interim report in accordance with Section 50.55(e)(3) of the Commission's regulations. We expect to provide a final report including our analysis of safety implications of this condition by September 1, 1979.

Very truly yours,

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

Gerald K. Rhode
Vice President
System Project Management

Attachment
Xc: Director of Inspection and Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

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50.55(e) INTERIM REPORT FOR CONTAINMENT LINER

A review of ultrasonic testing records compiled by the containment liner manufacturer revealed that certain ultrasonic testing methods were inadequate. Further investigation of the records has revealed that it is questionable whether certain ultrasonic testing techniques were properly implemented by examination personnel.

In those cases where it is apparent from the records that the ultrasonic testing method performed was inadequate, 100 percent ultrasonic retesting is being performed. Repairs are being made, where required, to the original design requirements as a result of the retesting. If the ultrasonic testing records indicate that the procedure was satisfactory but the techniques were improperly implemented, ultrasonic testing in accordance with a standard sampling plan will be performed to verify that the original testing is valid.

The current status of the corrective action on the containment liner welds is detailed below.

1. Base Ring T-Weld

   The ultrasonic test procedure used by Graver was previously reviewed and found acceptable to Stone and Webster. However, the ultrasonic testing techniques used by Graver which were not originally reviewed have now been found unacceptable by Stone and Webster based on review of the technique sheets compiled by Graver. Retesting is underway and some unacceptable indications have been found.

2. Knuckle K-Weld

   Because of inadequate containment liner ultrasonic testing procedures, testing was repeated for the circumferential butt seam weld in the lower knuckle assembly. Minor indications were discovered and immediately repaired to the original design criteria.

3. Knuckle Vertical Seam Welds

   After reviewing shop weld ultrasonic testing records, two seam welds were found to have improper calibration backup and required re-examination.

3. Knuckle Vertical Seam Welds (Continued)

Additionally, when the knuckle cutout replacement weld radiographic testing was reviewed, a small portion of some vertical seam welds were found to have defects. Retesting will be performed for the forty seam welds which were originally accepted.

4. Penetrations - Flued Head to Sleeve Weld

It was determined that only a small portion of the weld was volumetrical examined.

Radiographic testing will be performed if meaningful results can be obtained. Otherwise ultrasonic testing and magnetic particle or liquid penetrant testing will be utilized.

5. Beam Seats

Due to the indication found in Item 3, a sample inspection of beam seats will be performed.

6. Penetrations - Collar to Pipe (T-Weld)

The suppression chamber penetrations were investigated and it was determined that the ultrasonic testing performed by Graver utilized a 45 degree search angle and was not sufficient. Supplemental ultrasonic testing will be performed.

On the lower and upper cone of the containment liner, 37 percent of the welds require supplemental ultrasonic testing. Due to the indication found in Item 3, a sample inspection of the remaining 63 percent will be performed.

7. Floor Plate

Review of the ultrasonic testing performed by the liner manufacturer is in progress....

8. Instrument Penetration - Adapter to Sleeve Weld

A sample inspection of instrument penetration adapter to sleeve welds will be performed by ultrasonic testing methods to ensure that the technique used by the containment liner manufacturer was properly implemented.