

July 2, 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 30, 1979, Mr. L. Narrow of your staff was informed by telephone of a potential reportable deficiency under 10 C.F.R. 50.55(e) concerning the Nine Mile Point Unit 2 Biological Shield Wall. This letter serves as our interim report in accordance with Section 50.55(e)(3) of the Commission's Regulations.

While performing surface preparation of the outer shell to base plate shop weld of the Biological Shield Wall to permit fitup of washer plates, linear indications were found in two locations at the toe of the weld. This weld had previously passed a 100% ultrasonic examination.

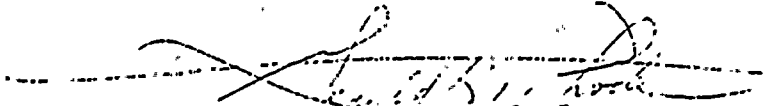
The larger indication was found to have dimensions of 3/4 inch depth, 15 inches long and 1 inch wide. After examination, these two linear indications were removed by grinding.

To determine the extent of linear indications, the entire Biological Shield Wall base ring weld was re-examined by ultrasonic test methods. The results are still under study. To further investigate the extent of the indications, a section of the weld, approximately 18 inches long, was removed to perform a metallurgical analysis.

We expect to provide a final report of the results of all tests and an analysis of the condition by September 15, 1979.

Very truly yours,

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION


Gerald K. Rhode
Vice President
System Project Management

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