

September 18, 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

The Biological Shield Wall potential deficiency involving the base ring to outer shell plate weld was originally reported to Mr. L. Narrow of your staff on May 30, 1979. An interim report was sent to you on this subject in a letter dated July 2, 1979. On August 24, 1979, your staff was informed that other Biological Shield Wall welds of similar geometrical configuration as the base ring to outer shell plate weld were being investigated.

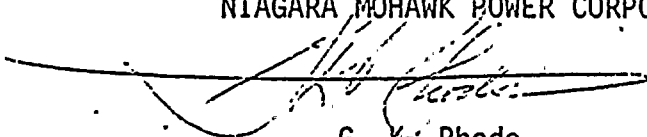
The base ring to outer shell weld has been 100 percent ultrasonically retested in the field. Rejectable indications were discovered in approximately 20 percent of the weld. As of September 12, 1979, all repairs have been completed except for final inspection. A metallurgical analysis of the 18 inch section removed from the Biological Shield Wall base ring to outer shell weld has been performed and a report is in progress.

Sample ultrasonic and magnetic particle tests of the horizontal stiffener to inner shell plate and the cover plate to stiffener welds were completed during the first week of September. As a result of this sampling program, unacceptable indications have been discovered on a portion of the Biological Shield Wall. Repairs and 100% inspection of this portion of the Biological Shield Wall have begun. The results of the sample program for the remaining portions of the Biological Shield Wall are still being evaluated.

A final report summarizing all of our tests and analyses and identifying any safety implications will be provided by January 15, 1980.

Very truly yours,

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION



G. K. Rhode
Vice President -
System Project Management

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