



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I
631 PARK AVENUE
KING OF PRUSSIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19406

CENTRAL FILES

File No. 50-410

OCT 24 1979

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
ATTN: Mr. G. K. Rhode
Vice President
System Project Management
300 Erie Boulevard, West
Syracuse, New York 13202

Gentlemen:

Subject: Inspection 50-410/79-02

This refers to your letter dated June 28, 1979, and our response letter dated July 20, 1979.

It is our understanding that radiography of the subject flued head to outer sleeve welds has revealed rejectable indications in a number of the penetration assemblies. Representatives of the Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation have indicated that improper UT techniques and/or application are primarily responsible for the failure to have previously identified such nonconforming conditions. Discussions between our inspectors and your staff during recent inspections have emphasized the need to precisely determine the factors contributing to this failure, so that any generic implications can be assessed. Based upon the assertion that for this weld design, ultrasonic examination in lieu of radiographic examination is the more meaningful and the preferred method, a demonstration that proper UT would have correctly identified and rejected the nonconforming welds is desirable.

We request that an additional ultrasonic examination be accomplished on a weld that failed the radiographic examination to provide evidence as to the effectiveness of UT as a volumetric examination method on the subject welds. Notification, so that we may witness the conduct of this additional UT, is also requested. It is our understanding that at least one penetration (Z19) is not scheduled for repair within such time that compliance with our request would cause a delay.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,

R. T. Carlson, Chief
Reactor Construction and
Engineering Support Branch

cc:

Eugene B. Thomas, Jr., Esquire

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