

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

NIAGARA  MOHAWK300 ERIE BOULEVARD, WEST
SYRACUSE, N. Y. 13202

November 20, 1976

Mr. James P. O'Reilly
Director
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA. 19406

RE: Docket No. 50-220
I.E. Circular 76-04

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

In response to I.E. Circular 76-04, dated October 1, 1976, we are supplying the following information:

1. Nine Mile Point Unit #1 has a total of 5 of the neutron monitor bypass switches, one for the SRM's two for the IRM's and two for the APRM's. In April of 1971, the channel 11 through 14 APRM bypass switch experienced improper operation in that contacts on the switch would occasionally not operate when the switch was operated. The switch was replaced with an identical spare. In April of 1972, the channel 15 through 18 APRM bypass switch malfunctioned in that a half-scam was experienced in Channel 18 with that channel bypassed. Again, the bypass switch was replaced with an identical spare. No malfunctions of any of the neutron monitor bypass switches have been experienced since this time.
2. In response to SIL #111, the recommended replacement bypass switches are being ordered from General Electric and all of the presently installed bypass switches will be replaced during the Spring 1977 Refueling Outage, providing the switches are available by then. Otherwise, they will be replaced at the first opportunity for which replacement will not affect plant operation or on malfunction of any of the existing switches which ever occurs first.

POZ

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To assure operability of the circuitry, the appropriate operating procedures will be revised to require that the bypass indicating lights and computer printouts be checked whenever any bypass switch is operated to assure that the selected channel is actually bypassed or unbypassed and that other channels not selected, on the same switch remain unaffected. A Standing Order will be issued immediately to cover this testing until the operating procedures are revised.

Very truly yours,


R.R. Schneider
Vice President -
Electric Production

DLP/mtm