

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

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

November 18, 1981

Mr. Eldon J. Brunner, Chief
Projects Branch #1
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

RE: Docket No. 50-220
Inspection Report No. 50-220/81-24

Dear Mr. Brunner

This refers to the routine, safety inspection conducted by Mr. S. Hudson of this office on September 1-30, 1981, at Nine Mile Point Unit #1, Scriba, New York, of activities authorized by NRC License No. DPR-63.

ITEM A

Technical Specification 6.11 states: "Procedures for personnel radiation protection shall be prepared consistent with the requirements of 10 CFR 20 and shall be approved, maintained and adhered to for all operations involving personnel radiation exposure."

Radiation Protection Procedure RP-1, "Access and Radiological Control," Revision 2, Section 8.6, dated March 30, 1981, states in part: "Items Negating Use of Extended RWP ... b. Contamination levels in excess of 25,000 dpm/100 cm²."

Contrary to the above, from September 24 to 28, 1981, multiple entries, using Extended Radiation Work Permit (RWP) #2G issued May 5, 1981, were made into the Reactor Building northeast corner, elevation 198 ft. where measured contamination levels up to 43,000 dpm/100 cm² existed.

RESPONSE

This violation of Radiation Protection Procedure RP-1 "Access and Radiological Control" occurred while station auxiliary operators were completing the requirements of station Standing Order #29 "Vital Area Security Patrol". This order was issued to assure the integrity of

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RESPONSE (Continued)

station safety equipment and is performed on each shift.

RP-1 states that "An area in excess of this level (25,000 dpm/100 cm²) may be entered if requirements for entry have been evaluated and posted by Rad. Protection."

The area had been surveyed and evaluated on 9/24/81 (survey #59405) including an air sample which indicated 12% MPC. However, the requirements for self-monitor entry were not posted, so entry should not have been made on the extended RWP.

Upon notification of the violation by the NRC inspector, the area was immediately surveyed and the results posted. An RWP was issued to the operators, and the area was subsequently decontaminated to a level of 6000 dpm/100 cm², which is well within self-monitoring limitations.

The operators who had entered the area were reinstructed on the self-monitoring limits and two were whole body counted on a sampling basis on 10/6/81, and the results indicated less than 1% MPBB Co⁶⁰ and less than 0.1% MPBB Cs¹³⁷.

Radiation Protection Technicians were reinstructed on the requirements for posting areas where contamination levels exceed 25,000 dpm/100 cm² and on the advisability of decontaminating frequented areas before reaching that level.

Sincerely



Thomas E. Lempges
Vice President
Nuclear Generation

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