

January 18, 1982

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

Re: Docket No. 50-220  
Inspection Report No. 50-220/81-25

Dear Mr. Brunner

This refers to an inspection conducted by a representative of South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control on September 23, 1981, of a shipment of radioactive waste from Nine Mile Point Unit #1.

ITEM A

10 CFR 30-41 prohibits transfer of byproduct material unless it is in a form authorized by the recipient's NRC or Agreement State license. South Carolina License No. 097, an Agreement State license issued to Chem Nuclear Systems Inc., prohibits the receipt of solidified waste with "detectable free standing liquid", which is defined in the license as liquid in excess of 1.0 percent by waste volume for high integrity containers.

Contrary to the above, on September 23, 1981, a waste shipment of byproduct material containing 7.458 curies of solidified evaporator bottoms was transferred to Chem Nuclear Systems, Inc. at Barnwell, South Carolina in a high integrity container, Chem Nuclear Systems, Inc. shipping cask, Model No. 14-195-H. The shipment contained detectable free standing liquid (11.7% liquid by waste volume).

RESPONSE

The immediate corrective step taken by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation upon notification of violation was to discontinue all routine solidification shipments involving the use of urea formaldehyde. As a result of this violation, NMPC requested Chem Nuclear Systems, Inc., the recipient who was also retained to both solidify and transport the solidified aqueous material, to re-examine urea formaldehyde as a solidification media and give NMPC an evaluation. Consequently,

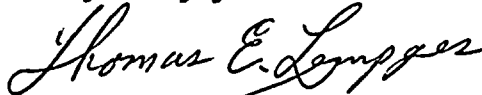
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Chem Nuclear Systems, Inc. no longer offers urea formaldehyde as a solidification media to its customers. NMPC, as a result of this experience, will no longer use urea formaldehyde as a solidification media. All routine solidified aqueous material shipments since September 1981 have used cement as the solidification media.

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation's future plans are as follows:

1. Sludges will be solidified by using Dow media as the solidification material. This system is presently being operationally checked.
2. A temporary cement system from Chem Nuclear Systems, Inc. will handle all other aqueous material until the in-plant (Stock Equipment System) is installed and operationally checked later this year.

Very truly yours



Thomas E. Lempges  
Vice President  
Nuclear Generation

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