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 VASSALLO, D.B. Operating Reactors Branch 2

SUBJECT: Responds to NRC request to explain operator action given
 draft emergency condenser Tech Spec change. Operators will
 take into account plant condition & other indications,
 besides high radiation signal, before manually isolating sys.

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March 19, 1984

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. Domenic B. Vassallo, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch No. 2
Division of Licensing
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Re: Nine Mile Point Unit 1
Docket No. 50-220
DPR-63

Dear Mr. Vassallo:

Our January 5, 1984 submittal concerned a draft emergency condenser technical specification change. The following information is provided in response to a request by your staff. At Nine Mile Point Unit 1, radiation monitors on the vent automatically initiate isolation of the emergency condensers. In the above submittal, we proposed to remove the automatic isolation feature. The monitors would remain for indication and alarm only. This change will provide greater flexibility and availability.

Attachment B to the above submittal provided information to support the change. It suggested that manual operation is preferred to automatic isolation.

Your staff requested us to explain operator action given the change. Operators will take into account the plant condition and other indications, besides the high radiation signal, before manually isolating. Operator input will enhance the condition of the plant.

The high radiation signal is one indicator of a tube leak. The high radiation signal does not, however, provide sufficient indication of a tube leak. There is other guidance available to operators to confirm a tube leak, for example:

- a. Checking Radiation Monitors - If a tube leak exists, high radiation would be sustained. The signal may have been only a radiation spike.

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PDR ADDCK 05000220
P PDR

Adol
1/0

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COUNTY OF DALLAS
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Mr. Domenic B. Vassallo

March 19, 1984

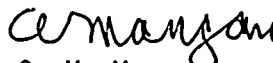
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- b. Checking Shell Side Temperature Monitors - If a tube leak exists, shell temperature may increase.
- c. Checking Water Level Monitors - If a tube leak exists, water level may be fluctuating.
- d. Observation of the Vents on the External Reactor Building North Wall - If a tube leak exists, the rate of steam flow through these vents should increase.

The above operator guidance will be added to the appropriate procedures. This change will increase the capability of the operators and the ability of the plant to respond. We conclude that this change will increase the margin of safety at Nine Mile Point Unit 1.

Sincerely,

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION



C. V. Mangan
Vice President

Nuclear Engineering and Licensing

DAC:slw

