12/11/86

Docket No. 50-410

LICENSEE: Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC)

FACILITY: Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Unit 2 (NMP-2)

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH NMPC ON DECEMBER 4, 1986, CONCERNING HYDROGEN RECOMBINERS AND MAIN STEAM ISOLATION VALVES AT NMP-2

On November 4, 1986, the NRC staff met with representatives of NMPC and their consultant, Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation (SWEC), to discuss concerns relating to the containment hydrogen recombiners and the main steam isolation valves (MSIVs) at NMP-2.

The hydrogen recombiners failed to meet the heatup rate and flow rate of the preoperational test in early October. The NMP-2 license issued October 31, 1986, contains a schedular exemption for the hydrogen recombiners for operability until criticality. NMPC is expected to request an exemption for the recombiners until operation above 5 percent of rated power, followed by a request to revise the Technical Specifications recombiner heatup rate when the Technical Specifications are reissued with the license to operate above 5 percent. Following failure of the preoperational test in October, NMPC proceeded to investigate the cause of the failure. It was determined that the inlet lines to the recombiner were designed and the calculations were performed for a design flow rate of 100 SCFM. The manufacturer's design flow rate and heatup rate were used in developing the FSAR and the Technical Specifications. The inlet piping and calculations however were not revised.

In order to increase the flow rate to the recombiners NMPC has replaced globe valves installed in the lines with gate valves. The flow rate has subsequently increased from about 110 SCFM to about 123 SCFM. Although this value does not agree with the FSAR value of 150 SCFM, following discussions with the manufacturer, NMPC believes this is an acceptable flow rate.

In the process of investigating the reason for the reduced heatup rate, NMPC discovered that water in a drain line was being drawn up into the inlet line, thereby cooling it down. In order to eliminate this problem, NMPC plans to modify the drain line piping to increase the head required to draw the water out of the drain line.

NMPC has performed some testing with a valve in the drain line closed to eliminate the concern of drawing water from this line. Testing in this manner indicated that a temperature of 1150 F could be achieved in about 2½ hours. NMPC stated that discussions with the vendor indicated this heatup rate could be considered normal.

In addition, NMPC has tested each of the heaters individually to determine the correct amperage is being drawn and checked the heaters at 15 minute intervals to assure they were not cutting back.

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NMPC stated that the recombiners are not required to be operational until 2.25 days into an accident. Therefore, starting the recombiners 2 days into the accident should meet this requirement.

NMPC stated that the exemption request for the recombiners may be submitted December 5, 1986. The NRC stated since the exemption request is being submitted so late it may impact criticality in December. NMPC agreed to notify the NRC on December 5, of the schedule for submittal of the requested Technical Specification change and supporting documentation. The NRC suggested NMPC review how many heaters can be out when providing the basis for the heatup rate in the Technical Specifications. The NRC also stated the request for a change to the Technical Specifications should include a discussion of the basis for the recombiners inability to meet the Technical Specifications.

NMPC provided a summary status of the MSIVs. The balls for all eight valves have been installed and passed leak testing. The preoperational test procedure for testing the valves as an assembly with the modified actuators was rejected by SORC and needs to be revised and reviewed before testing can be completed.

The contingency plan for installing y-pattern globe valves in place of the existing ball valves was discussed. NMPC indicated the decision has not been made to replace these valves, but should it become necessary the globe valves could be installed by the end of February. The NRC indicated that NRC review time of the acceptability of the change to globe valves should be considered.

NMPC indicated that a bypass leakage control system could not be installed until the end of April. The NRC indicated that NMPC might be able to directly reference portions of NUREG 1169 rather than perform these calculations from scratch if they wish to provide justification for not needing the bypass leakage control system.

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Enclosure:
As stated

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December 11, 1986

MEETING SUMMARY DISTRIBUTION

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