



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

FEB 12 1990

Docket Nos. 50-220
50-410

Mr. John M. Endries
President
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
300 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13202

Dear Mr. Endries:

On January 22 and 23, 1990, NRC senior managers met to review the performance of nuclear power plants licensed to operate by the NRC. This meeting is conducted semiannually to focus NRC resources on those plants and related issues of greatest safety significance. At this meeting, Nine Mile Point Units 1 and 2 were categorized as continuing to require close monitoring. Plants in this category have been identified as having weaknesses that warrant increased NRC attention from both Headquarters and the Regional Office until the licensee demonstrates a period of improved performance.

A summary of the discussions held relating to Nine Mile Point Units 1 and 2 is provided below:

Since the May 1989 Senior Management Meeting, significant progress has been made in implementing corrective actions which address the underlying root causes of prior poor performance. An Integrated Assessment Team Inspection concluded that the Restart Plan for Unit 1 was in place, well disseminated and generally understood; however, the degree of implementation of the Plan varied. NRC inspection observations indicate that additional work is needed to ensure all levels in the organization understand their roles and responsibilities related to new management policies and procedures.

Progress in making Unit 1 ready for restart has been slow as a result of a conservative approach to ensuring system readiness for fuel loading and underestimating the time needed to implement needed DC electrical system modifications. Operational performance in September and October on Unit 2 declined as a result of several avoidable human errors. The licensee is reassessing the effectiveness of prior corrective actions in light of these errors. As a result of the July 1989 Unit 2 Requalification Examination failures, several programmatic changes and extensive retraining have been implemented. The licensee efforts with respect to decontamination of the old radwaste building basement are proceeding. An aggressive personnel exposure budget has been established for the decontamination.

9002260024 900212
PDR ADDCK 05000220
P PIC

RFol.
1/0
MA/H



14

14

The licensee is planning to delay the Unit 2 refueling outage until August 1990 in order to better plan the outage and minimize overlap with the Unit 1 startup, which is currently estimated to begin in late April 1990. NRC concern has been expressed regarding the August 1990 timing of a licensee self-assessment related to efficiency and budget because of its potential to divert management attention during the planned power ascension of Unit 1 and the Unit 2 outage and restart. Independent close monitoring and confirmation of readiness of Unit 1 for restart will continue.

NRC concern was also expressed regarding the potential adverse impact of future management losses and the need for management succession planning and the development or recruiting of senior corporate and plant managers.

An NRC Commission meeting open to the public has been scheduled for February 15, 1990, to review the results of the latest meeting of NRC managers. Mr. William Russell, the Region I Administrator, has discussed the basis for our conclusions with regard to Nine Mile Point Units 1 and 2 with members of your staff.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
James M. Taylor

James M. Taylor
Executive Director for Operations

cc: See Next Page

DISTRIBUTION

SECY Docket File
OCA PDR
OPA
T. Murley
W. Russell
EDO r/f

OFC	: OEDO	: EDO	:	:	:	:
NAME	: JDyer:em	: JMTaylor	:	:	:	:
DATE	: 02/09/90	: 02/09/90	:	:	:	:



Mr. John M. Endries
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station

cc:

- Mr. Troy B. Conner, Jr., Esq.
Conner & Wetterhahn
Suite 1050
1747 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
- Mr. Richard Goldsmith
Syracuse University
College of Law
E. I. White Hall Campus
Syracuse, New York 12223
- Resident Inspector
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Station
P. O. Box 99
Lycoming, New York 13093
- Mr. Gary D. Wilson, Esquire
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
300 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13202
- Mr. Peter E. Francisco, Licensing
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
301 Plainfield Road
Syracuse, New York 13212
- Ms. Donna Ross
New York State Energy Office
2 Empire State Plaza
16th Floor
Albany, New York 12223
- Supervisor
Town of Scriba
R. D. #4
Oswego, New York 13126
- Regional Administrator, Region I
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406
- Charlie Donaldson, Esquire
Assistant Attorney General
New York Attorney
120 Broadway
New York, New York 10271
- Mr. Richard M. Kessel
Chair and Executive Director
State Consumer Protection Board
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12210
- Mr. Richard Abbott, Unit 2 Station
Superintendent
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
P. O. Box 32
Lycoming, NY 13093
- Mr. James L. Willis, General Supt.,
Nuclear Generation
Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
P. O. Box 32
Lycoming, New York 13093



Handwritten scribbles or marks in the top right corner.

A few small, faint marks or characters at the bottom left corner.