

NOV 23 1992

Docket Nos. 50-220
50-410

Mr. B. Ralph Sylvia
Executive Vice President - Nuclear
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
301 Plainfield Road
Syracuse, New York 13212

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

**Subject: NRC Region I Combined Inspection Report No. 50-220/92-24 and
50-410/92-28**

This refers to the results of the routine resident safety inspection conducted by Messrs. W. Schmidt and W. Mattingly from September 27 through October 31, 1992, at Nine Mile Point Units 1 and 2, Scriba, New York. Mr. Schmidt discussed the inspection findings with members of your staff at the exit meeting conducted on November 13, 1992.

This inspection was directed toward areas important to public health and safety. The enclosed NRC Region I Inspection Report describes the areas examined during the inspection. Within these areas, the inspection consisted of observation of activities in progress, interviews with personnel, and selective examinations of procedures and representative records.

Your staff operated both units safely. However, in two instances senior reactor operators at Unit 1 did not take correct actions following: an instance of not having the proper shift manning in the control room; and when unanticipated half-scrams were generated, multiple times during surveillance testing. The failure to have a senior reactor operator in the control room for five minutes was by itself not safety significant. We are concerned because this was not identified to station management until five days after it occurred. The lack of adequate shift manning as required by plant technical specifications is an apparent violation and is being considered for escalated enforcement, in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedures for NRC Enforcement Actions (Enforcement Policy), 10 CFR Part 2, Appendix C (1992). Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for this inspection finding.

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Further, during the performance of surveillance testing of the reactor protective system instrumentation, a senior reactor operator failed to reconcile procedure problems and unanticipated half-scam conditions before continuing with the procedure. This issue is a concern because it shows a continuing lack of understanding by operators of expectations for stopping and reviewing evolutions where unexpected events occur. This is in violation of NRC requirements, as specified in the enclosed Notice of Violation.

With respect to the potential escalated enforcement action discussed above, you will be contacted under separate correspondence. Based on the results of this inspection, you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions relative to the Notice when preparing your response. In your response, you should document the specific actions taken and any additional action you plan to prevent recurrence of these types of issues. Further, please include in your response a discussion of the actions you have taken or plan to take to address the attention-to-detail concerns and configuration control issues discussed in this inspection report.

Your cooperation with us is appreciated.

Sincerely,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

PETER W. ESELGROTH

Curtis J. Cowgill, Chief
Projects Branch No. 1
Division of Reactor Projects

Enclosures:

1. Appendix A, Notice of Violation
2. NRC Region I Combined Inspection Report Nos. 50-220/92-24 and 50-410/92-28

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cc w/encl:

N. Carns, Vice President - Nuclear Generation

C. Terry, Vice President - Nuclear Engineering

J. Perry, Vice President - Quality Assurance

J. Firlit, Vice President - Nuclear Support

K. Dahlberg, Unit 1 Plant Manager

M. McCormick, Unit 2 Plant Manager

D. Greene, Manager, Licensing

J. Warden, New York Consumer Protection Branch

G. Wilson, Senior Attorney

M. Wetterhahn, Winston and Strawn

Director, Power Division, Department of Public Service, State of New York

C. Donaldson, Esquire, Assistant Attorney General, New York Department of Law

K. Abraham, PAO-RI (2)

Public Document Room (PDR)

Local Public Document Room (LPDR)

Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)

NRC Resident Inspector

State of New York, SLO Designee

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bcc w/encls:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)

C. Cowgill, DRP

J. Yerokun, DRP

L. Nicholson, DRP

S. Greenlee, DRP

V. McCree, OEDO

J. Lieberman, OE

R. Capra, NRR

D. Brinkman, NRR

J. Menning, NRR

D. Holody, EO

DRS/EB SALP Coordinator

bcc w/Letter, Notice of Violation, Report Cover Sheet and Executive Summary Only:

W. Hehl, DRP

J. Wiggins, DRP

W. Hodges, DRS

W. Lanning, DRS

L. Bettenhausen, DRS

R. Cooper, DRSS

J. Durr, DRS

J. Joyner, DRSS

RI:DRP*
WSchmidt/ss

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RI:DRP*
LNicholson

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RI:DRP*
C Cowgill

11/23/92

*SEE PREVIOUS CONCURRENCE

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J. Joyner, DRSS

RI:DRP
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PSW/for
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