

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION I

Report No. 50-220/91-10

Docket No. 50-220

License No. DPR-63

Licensee: Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
300 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13202

Facility Name: Nine Mile Point Unit 1

Inspection At: King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

Inspection Conducted: April 3, 1991

Inspector:

Joseph Furia

J. Furia, Senior Radiation Specialist,
Facilities Radiological Protection Section
(FRPS), Facilities Radiological Safety and
Safeguards Branch (FRSSB), Division of
Radiation safety and Safeguards (DRSS)

4/4/91
date

Approved by:

W. Pasciak

W. Pasciak, Chief, FRPS, FRSSB, DRSS

4/4/91
date

Inspection Summary: Inspection on April 3, 1991 (Inspection Report No. 50-220/91-10

Areas Inspected: Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation was the originator of a waste shipment which was inspected at the Hanford Disposal Site at Richland, Washington.

Results: One violation was identified (excessive non-fixed contamination levels on the exterior surface of the shipping container).



DETAILS

On March 12, 1991, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation shipped from Nine Mile Point Unit 1 a liner with approximately 45000 Curies of irradiated metal in an IF-300 rail shipping cask. Upon receipt at the Hanford Disposal Site in Richland, Washington, it was determined that on two separate wipe/smear tests taken from various locations on the cask, that the level of non-fixed (removable) contamination was approximately 2000 dpm/sq cm.

10 CFR 71.87 requires that non-fixed (removable) contamination levels during transport not exceed 220 dpm/sq cm, unless a greater limit is established based on determining the efficiency of the detection methodology. Tests conducted at the Hanford Disposal site determined that its methodology was approximately 49% efficient, and thus the regulatory limit for this shipment was approximately 1100 dpm/sq cm. This is an apparent violation (50-220/91-10).

Mr. W. Thomson, Radiation Protection Manager for Nine Mile Point Unit 1 was informed of this apparent violation of NRC requirements in a telephone conversation with Mr. J. Furia of the Region I Office on April 3, 1991.

The licensee was suspended indefinitely from utilizing the Hanford Disposal Site by the State of Washington, effective March 29, 1991, until such time as the licensee takes appropriate corrective actions to prevent a reoccurrence.

