

NY NIAGARA MOHAWK

NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION/P.O. BOX 32, LYCOMING, N.Y. 13093/TELEPHONE (315) 349-2447

Neil S. "Buzz" Cams
Vice President
Nuclear Generation

October 12, 1992.
NMP1L 0703

Mr. Charles W. Hehl, Director
Division of Reactor Projects
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region I
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

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

Nine Mile Point Unit 2
Docket No. 50-410
NPF-69

Dear Mr. Hehl:

This letter responds to your letter of August 13, 1992 concerning an allegation of computer problems associated with Niagara Mohawk's Nuclear Facility Support Network. Niagara Mohawk has reviewed the information provided in your letter and has determined that the allegations contained therein are without foundation.

In response to the allegation, Niagara Mohawk commissioned a consultant to perform a 3-day security review of the Nuclear Facility Support Network and VAXcluster computer system located at our Salina Meadows offices in Syracuse, NY. This investigation determined that:

- 1) A review of the file servers for personal computers and a random sample of personal computers which included a scan of over 15,000 files (on the order of 500 Mbytes), identified no known viruses.
- 2) There are no operating system viruses based on our consultant's assessments of the VAXcluster's security and, given the level of security currently employed in the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation environment, no further review is deemed necessary. In addition, the state of the security provided to the VAXcluster at Salina Meadows indicates a well managed VAXcluster.

It is true that the two Prime computers are connected to the Nuclear Facility Support Network. Also, presently there is a plan which may connect the network to the Unit 2 process computer systems for compilation of data for the State of New York. However, there has been no indication or evidence of a virus in either the Prime or process computer systems. Niagara Mohawk maintains its computer systems as a closed, proprietary network, not connected to the Internet or with outside public data networks. Outside access is provided to authorized users through the use of passworded modem connections.

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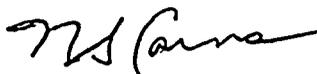


All users of Niagara Mohawk systems must provide a username and password which further ensures proper security. The Nuclear Division passwords must change every 45 to 60 days. Within the VAXcluster operating system, prior passwords are maintained in a dictionary to mitigate repeated or common passwords.

In regards to the technical expertise, Niagara Mohawk's Nuclear Division successfully manages the nuclear network maintaining a reliability level consistent with the industry. Niagara Mohawk also retains expert consultants from leading systems and network companies to assist in the design, implementation and management of its computer system and network assets.

Niagara Mohawk will maintain a copy of our consultant's assessment and investigation on file. Please contact me if you have any further questions regarding this subject.

Very truly yours,



Mr. N. S. Carns
Vice President - Nuclear Generation

NAS/mls
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xc: Regional Administrator, Region I
Mr. W. L. Schmidt, Senior Resident Inspector
Mr. R. A. Capra, Director, Project Directorate I-1, NRR
Mr. D. S. Brinkman, Senior Project Manager, NRR
Records Management

