

CATEGORY 1

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 AUTH. NAME: PALEOLOGOS, N. AUTHOR AFFILIATION: Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.
 RECIP. NAME: RECIPIENT AFFILIATION: Records Management Branch (Document Control Desk)

SUBJECT: Special rept: on 981006, identified operability of gas effluent monitoring sys. Cause has not yet been determined. Surveillance testing suspended until adequate power supply available to support sys loads.

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NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION/LAKE ROAD, P.O. BOX 63, LYCOMING, NEW YORK 13093

October 16, 1998
NMP2L 1826

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

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

Subject: Special Report

Gentlemen:

In accordance with Nine Mile Point Unit 2 (NMP2) Technical Specification (TS) Table 3.3.7.10-1, "Radioactive Gaseous Effluent Monitoring Instrumentation," Action Statement 139b, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) is submitting the following Special Report concerning the inoperability of the Gaseous Effluent Monitoring System, (GEMS). From September 29, 1998 until October 8, 1998, the Main Stack Effluent Monitoring Instrumentation portion of GEMS had been inoperable in excess of 72 hours.

Event Description

On October 6, 1998 at 1630 hours, with the reactor mode switch in the "RUN" position at approximately 90 percent reactor power, Radiation Protection personnel identified during surveillance testing, that the Main Stack Effluent Monitoring Instrumentation portion of GEMS would not operate when post accident loads were added to the system's temporary power supply.

On September 29, 1998, maintenance personnel installed a temporary power supply to GEMS per maintenance procedure N2-EPM-GEN-3Y624 to facilitate battery replacement on the local uninterruptible power supply 2VBB-UPS1H while maintaining GEMS operable. Concurrent with the maintenance on 2VBB-UPS1H, a scheduled channel functional test was performed on GEMS. During that functional test, the supply breaker feeding GEMS from the temporary power supply tripped when the dilution pumps were started. This was the second time that the alternate power source to GEMS, during maintenance, had been implemented. During performance of the 10 year preventive maintenance procedure N2-EPM-GEN-10Y638 on September 19, 1997, GEMS had been powered temporarily utilizing the same configuration.

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An investigation revealed that the temporary power supply has a capacity of 20 amps, and the normal power supply for GEMS is rated at 45 amps to support all system loads post accident. The normal GEMS load is 13.5 amps during non-accident mode conditions. However, the current load requirement during the surveillance test exceeded the capacity of the 20 amp breaker when the dilution pumps were started.

The Station Shift Supervisor determined that the Main Stack Effluent Monitoring Instrumentation portion of GEMS, including the noble gas and flow measuring instrumentation was inoperable from the date that the temporary power supply was installed. The temporary power supply was installed on September 29, 1998 at 0830 hours. As a result, the period of GEMS inoperability exceeded 72 hours, requiring submittal of this Special Report, as specified by TS Action Statement 139b.

During the period from September 29, 1998, until the start of surveillance testing on October 6, 1998 the stack GEMS noble gas monitoring channel was performing the normal monitoring function required by TS 3.3.7.9. Similarly, on September 19, 1997, the normal monitoring function for TS 3.3.7.9 was performed by GEMS.

Upon discovery that the temporary power supply would not support the additional high range loads, the surveillance test was stopped and actions required by TS Table 3.3.7.10-1 Action Statements 136, 138 and 139a continued (i.e., estimate flow rate, collect and analyze grab samples). Those actions had been implemented when the GEMS surveillance test began.

It should be noted that Section 12.3.1.3, Postaccident Access and Shield Design Review, of the NMP2 Updated Safety Analysis Report (USAR) contains an evaluation of access for sampling, if GEMS is inoperable. The results of the evaluation are that the doses are within acceptable limits.

Cause of Event

The cause of the event has not yet been determined. In accordance with NMPC's Corrective Action Program, a formal root cause is being completed. When the root cause and associated corrective actions are identified, a supplement to this Special Report will be submitted. The supplement will be submitted by November 15, 1998.



Actions Taken

Immediate Actions

1. Surveillance testing was suspended until an adequate power supply was available to support system loads.
2. The System was returned to operable status on October 8, 1998 at 1721 hours.

Additional actions will be taken and reported as discussed in the Cause of Event section above.

Very truly yours,



Nicholas C. Paleologos
Plant Manager - NMP2

NCP/GJG/kap

xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, Regional Administrator, Region I
Mr. B. S. Norris, Senior Resident Inspector
Records Management

