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 AUTH. NAME: TERRY, J.H. AUTHOR AFFILIATION: Niagara Mohawk Power Corp.
 RECIP. NAME: RECIPIENT AFFILIATION

SUBJECT: Interim deficiency report re weld of biological shield wall base ring to outer shell plate. Defects discovered in horizontal stiffener to inner shell plate welds of Ring 3. Metallurgical analysis underway. Final report available 800331.

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January 15, 1980

Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region I
Attention: Mr. R. T. Carlson, Chief
Reactor Construction and Engineering
Support Branch
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Mr. Carlson:

Re: Nine Mile Point Unit 2
Docket No. 50-410

A potential significant deficiency involving the Biological Shield Wall base ring to outer shell plate weld was previously reported to Mr. L. Narrow of your staff on May 30, 1979. The investigation and resolution of this problem has not been completed. Consequently a final report on this subject will not be available until March 31, 1980. This letter serves as an interim report.

The results of the metallurgical analysis which were discussed in our September 18, 1979 letter are now in the final stages of being compiled and will be provided in our final report.

The status of the Biological Shield wall investigation is summarized as follows:

1. As reported in our September 18, 1979 report, the base ring to outer shell weld has been 100 percent re-examined and reworked as required.
2. The inner wall to base plate welds have been 100 percent re-examined and reworked as required.
3. The cover plate to stiffener welds for Rings 1 and 2 are being 100 percent re-examined and reworked as required.
4. Defects have been discovered in the horizontal stiffener to inner shell plate welds of Ring 3. Due to the inaccessibility of these welds, it is difficult to determine the extent of the defects. Therefore, Niagara Mohawk is investigating the most effective alternatives to resolve this matter.

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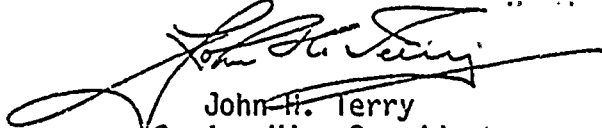
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An independent consultant was contracted to conduct a metallurgical evaluation of the welds in the Biological Shield Wall. To aid in this evaluation a metallurgical analysis has been performed on two sample horizontal stiffener to inner shell plate welds removed from Ring 3.

As indicated above, a final report summarizing our tests and analyses and identifying any safety implications will be provided by March 31, 1980.

Very truly yours,

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION



John H. Terry
Senior Vice President



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