

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION/301 PLAINFIELD ROAD, SYRACUSE, N.Y. 13212/TELEPHONE (315) 474-1511

September 13, 1987  
(NMP2L 1075)

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D.C. 20555

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

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is the Nine Mile Point Unit 2 Self-Assessment Report committed to in our June 4, 1987 letter (NMP2L-1047). This report provides an assessment of station operations and corporate support during power ascension testing.

This self-assessment was extensive, comprehensive and designed to generate constructive criticism of our performance. For this reason the report emphasizes the problems and weaknesses we identified, the improvements we have made during the assessment process, and recommendations for further improvements. The report does conclude that the station and personnel performed acceptably. The report also indicates that there are no impediments to completion of the test program and continued operation. In order to put this conclusion in perspective with the total report, I would like to briefly highlight four general areas: hardware, management, personnel and procedures.

The station has been successfully operated at power levels exceeding 40%. The station is capable of meeting its primary function of producing electric power safely and reliably. There have been, however, hardware problems. Some of the problems have been fixed, and some are still being investigated and evaluated. None of these hardware problems are considered to have a serious impact on the primary function of the station.

In general, Managers and Supervisors have responded positively and properly to concerns and issues. For all levels of management, we have found certain areas where improvements could be made. We have addressed these areas with changes to training, management systems, or organization as appropriate. Maintaining and improving the level of management effectiveness is a continuing task. However, the Self-Assessment indicates that Niagara Mohawk management is appropriately responding to those issues and concerns which have a significant impact on the safety, quality, operability and reliability of the station.

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The Self-Appraisal Team's conclusions on the overall performance of station, support personnel and management are similar. We have identified certain areas where improvements in personnel attitude, knowledge, or training could be made. We also identified individuals and groups where specific improvements could be made. On the whole, however, the Self-Assessment indicates that our operating and support personnel are conscientious, knowledgeable and capable of operating the station in a safe and reliable manner.

As with the other areas, the Self-Assessment identified specific problems in the content and execution of some procedures, and recommended several improvements. The Self-Assessment concluded, however, that there was a high level of procedural compliance and that the procedures were generally adequate. Niagara Mohawk has placed great emphasis on this area for some time and will continue this attention to assure safe operation.

Finally, I would like to address a benefit of the Self-Assessment process beyond the conclusions, findings and recommendations that were generated. Niagara Mohawk has found that the self-critical review process is effective in identifying significant concerns and initiating effective management response and resolution. Niagara Mohawk intends to continue this process in modified form through Test Condition 6.

Very truly yours,

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

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cc: Regional Administrator, Region I (10 copies)  
Ms. M. Haughey, Project Manager  
Mr. W. A. Cook, Senior Resident Inspector

