



NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION / 300 ERIE BOULEVARD WEST, SYRACUSE, N.Y. 13202 / TELEPHONE (315) 474-1511

September 1, 1981

Office of Inspection and Enforcement
Region I
Attention: Mr. Eldon J. Brunner
Acting Director
Division of Resident and Project Inspection
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
631 Park Avenue
King of Prussia, PA 19406



Dear Mr. Brunner:

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

This letter is submitted as a final report in accordance with 10CFR50.55(e) for a condition involving the design of the Nine Mile Point Unit 2 reactor pressure vessel support skirt access hole cover plates. This condition was initially reported as a potential deficiency on January 29, 1981.

Our interim report dated March 13, 1981 indicated that the reactor pressure vessel support skirt access hole cover plates as currently designed may not be adequate to withstand the newly identified loads of a LOCA annulus pressurization event. The New Load Program Annulus Pressurization Analysis has verified that the access hole covers, made of 1/4 inch plate, may fail under annulus pressurization loading.

A preliminary analysis based on the review of design drawings by our nuclear steam supply system vendor indicates that this condition is not a safety concern. This preliminary analysis indicates that since the cover plate centerline is nearly the same as the point where the control rod drives are welded to the reactor pressure vessel, the strength of the control rod drive housing/reactor pressure vessel interface area far exceeds the possible load from the cover plate impact. Therefore, rod insertion is assured and no

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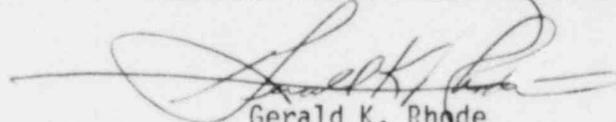
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adverse safety affects would occur from this event. However, a detailed analysis would be required to provide sufficient assurance that the results of the preliminary analysis are correct. Therefore, in consideration of the most cost-effective, technically acceptable approach, the existing reactor pressure vessel support skirt access hole covers will be replaced with new ones made from thicker plate capable of withstanding the annulus pressurization loads.

Very truly yours,

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gerald K. Rhode", written over a horizontal line.

Gerald K. Rhode
Vice President

System Project Management

PEF:bd

xc: Director of Inspection and Enforcement
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555