

October 29, 1981

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



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

Dear Mr. Brunner:

This letter is submitted as the final 10CFR 50.55(e) report regarding a horizontal weld defect in the Nine Mile Point Unit 2 primary containment liner base ring T-weld. This was originally reported to Mr. Kister of your staff as a potentially reportable deficiency on February 27, 1981, and was the subject of interim 50.55(e) reports dated March 30, 1981 and May 28, 1981.

In our interim report dated May 28, 1981, it was stated that as part of the corrective action, additional ultrasonic examination of the weld joint would be performed. This additional ultrasonic examination utilized the dual 70° pitch-and-catch technique to determine whether a horizontal weld defect existed and needed to be reworked along with the indications recorded by the single 45° and 70° examinations. The single 45° and 70° examinations were performed as a result of a previously reported 50.55(e) deficiency involving this same weld. All twenty sections of the welds, approximately 262 feet, were 100 percent ultrasonically examined, utilizing a dual 70° probe technique. A total of approximately 18 inches of weld indication was detected. Of this 18 inches of indication, approximately 12 inches occurred in sections of the weld which required rework from the previous single 45° and 70° examination and thus would have been removed.

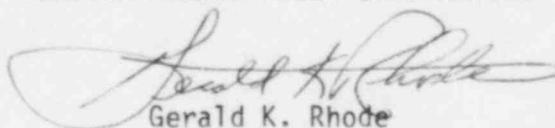
All weld indications will be repaired to original specification requirements. The repair work on this will be completed by January 31, 1982.

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The base ring T-weld is part of the primary containment boundary and is safety-related. The additional ultrasonic examination using the dual 70° pitch-and-catch technique has shown that the long, continuous crack which was found in the similar joint on the River Bend Project did not exist in this weld. Since the small indications, which were detected, did not penetrate the surface, and the toughness of the material is sufficient for the calculated stresses, propagation would have been precluded. Therefore, had these small indications, totaling approximately 18 inches remained uncorrected, a safety hazard would not have resulted.

Very truly yours,

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION



Gerald K. Rhode  
Vice President

System Project Management

PEF:ja

xc: Resident Inspector