

Docket No. 50-220

JAN 31 1984

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation  
ATTN: Mr. Gerald K. Rhode  
Senior Vice President  
System Project Management  
c/o Miss Catherine R. Seibert  
300 Erie Boulevard West  
Syracuse, New York 13202

Gentlemen:

Subject: Inspection No. 50-220/83-27

This refers to the routine safety inspection conducted by Mr. R. L. Nimitz of this office on November 14-18, 1983 at the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 1, Scriba, New York of activities authorized by NRC License No. DPR-63 and to the discussions of our findings held by Mr. Nimitz with Mr. T. Perkins, of your staff at the conclusion of the inspection. This also refers to a telephone discussion on November 23, 1983 between Mr. E. Leach of your staff and Dr. M. Shanbaky of this office and to your letter dated October 4, 1983, which transmitted your Radiation Protection Program Action Plan Progress Report for the second quarter of 1983.

Areas examined during this inspection are described in the NRC Region I Inspection Report which is enclosed with this letter. Within these areas, the inspection of your radiological safety program at the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1 consisted of selective examinations of procedures and representative records, interviews with personnel, and observations by the inspector.

Our inspector also verified the steps you had taken to correct certain violations brought to your attention in letters dated March 2, 1981 and April 7, 1983. We have no further questions regarding the steps you took to correct Appendix B violation numbers 1.a, 1.b, and 1.d, enclosed with our March 2, 1981 letter or the single violation described in Appendix A of our April 7, 1983 letter. With regard to Appendix B violation number 1.c, enclosed with our March 2, 1981 letter, based on the information provided in your May 7, 1981 letter, this item is withdrawn. Our records will be modified accordingly.

Within the scope of this inspection, no violations were observed.

The findings of this inspection indicate that the majority of the planned improvements to upgrade the Radiation Protection Program at the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Station, as outlined in your November 26, 1980 letter, have been implemented. As a result, no further quarterly Action Plan Progress Reports are requested. However, based on the referenced telephone discussion, we understand that a final Summary Action Plan Report will be submitted. This

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final report will provide a summary of Action Plan improvements yet to be completed and an anticipated completion date for these improvements. If this is not your understanding, please notify this office within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

During this inspection, we became aware of an incident which occurred on November 1, 1983 and involved a hands-on inspection of a highly contaminated Control Rod Blade handling tool. Our preliminary review of this incident indicates that a member of your operations supervisory staff failed to adhere to appropriate radiological controls requirements prior to inspection of the tool. As a result, several individuals sustained contamination of the skin. We are particularly concerned that this individual directed other individuals to assist him in the inspection. We have not completed our review of this event but understand that appropriate actions are being taken to improve the performance of the individual involved and to preclude recurrence.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790(a), a copy of this letter and the enclosure will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room unless you notify this office, by telephone, within ten days of the date of this letter and submit written application to withhold information contained therein within thirty days of the date of this letter. Such application must be consistent with the requirements of 10 CFR 2.790(b)(1). The telephone notification of your intent to request withholding, or any request for an extension of the 10-day period which you believe necessary, should be made to the Supervisor, Files, Mail and Records, USNRC Region I, at (215) 337-5223.

No reply to this letter is required. Your cooperation with us in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

*orig signed by  
H. Crocker*

*J* Thomas T. Martin, Director  
Division of Engineering and  
Technical Programs

Enclosure: NRC Region I Inspection Report Number 50-220/83-27

JAN 31 1984

cc w/encl:

T. E. Lempges, Vice President, Nuclear Generation  
 T. Perkins, General Superintendent, Nuclear Generation  
 T. Roman, Station Superintendent  
 J. Aldrich, Supervisor, Operations  
 W. Drews, Technical Superintendent  
 Troy B. Conner, Jr. Esquire  
 John W. Keib, Esquire  
 Director, Power Division  
 Public Document Room (PDR)  
 Local Public Document Room (LPDR)  
 Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)  
 NRC Resident Inspector  
 State of New York

bcc w/encl:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)  
 Senior Operations Officer (w/o encls)  
 DPRP Section Chief

*W. B. Bicehouse*  
 RI:DETP  
 Bicehouse/gcb  
 1/3/84

*D. J. Collins*  
 RI:DETP  
 Collins  
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RI:DETP  
 Nimitz  
*R. L. Nimitz*  
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*Shanbaky*  
 RI:DETP  
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 1/25

*James Bellamy*  
 RI:DETP  
 Bellamy  
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