

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

R. Engelken

JUN 19 1970

Docket No. 50-220

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
300 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13202

Attention: Mr. Minot H. Pratt
Vice President and
Executive Engineer

Gentlemen:

This letter authorizes the return to operation of the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station (NMP) in accordance with your documented program for restoration to service and subject to other conditions which are defined herein.

My letter dated March 13, 1970, requested appropriate reporting of your repair plans and the significant results of your investigation and evaluation of the furnace-sensitized stainless steel safe ends prior to the resumption of NMP reactor operations. You have submitted this information along with your plans for future surveillance and the resumption of operations in the following documents:

1. "Reactor Primary System Investigation at Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station" dated May 1, 1970.
2. "Reactor Primary System Investigation at Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station - Report No. 2" dated May 11, 1970.
3. "Program for Restoration to Service Based on Reports of Primary System Investigation - Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station" dated May 11, 1970.

We have reviewed these reports, including the results of the investigative program and the evaluation of the metallurgical problem, and have concluded that your plans for repair of the safe ends and for resumption of operations are acceptable as set forth in your report (Item 3 above). In this regard, we note that a reinspection of furnace-

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sensitized safe ends will be made within one year. We further understand that efforts will be made to perform some of this surveillance during the year, whenever unscheduled shutdowns provide the opportunity for such inspection. We request that you provide a report of the results of this surveillance program, including evaluation of their significance promptly after completion.

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) reviewed this matter at its 122nd meeting held June 11-13, 1970. A copy of the report of the ACRS, dated June 16, 1970, is enclosed. In its report, the ACRS made recommendations concerning resumption and future operation of the facility. These items include:

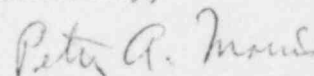
1. At least one leak-detection system in addition to the proposed sump accumulation rate and dew point systems should be installed within a few months.
2. Assurance should be provided that the biological shield surrounding the reactor vessel can withstand the pressure that could be developed by loss of integrity of a safe end or nozzle, or that failure of the shield would have no intolerable consequences.

Please inform us expeditiously of your plans regarding implementation of item 1. With regard to item 2, we request that you submit an analysis of shield integrity and consequences of failure under the prescribed conditions. Please advise us of your planned schedule for submittal.

In addition, a program for surveillance of the sensitized material over the long term should be developed. Since determination of the appropriate extent of such a program will depend upon the results of the surveillance performed during the forthcoming year, we request that, in your report of this surveillance effort, you include your plans for further surveillance of this material.

Subject to the above considerations, we have concluded that resumption of operations of the Nine Mile Point reactor will not endanger the health and safety of the public.

Sincerely,



Peter A. Morris, Director
Division of Reactor Licensing

Enclosure:

ACRS Report - 6/16/70

cc: Arvin E. Upton, Esquire
LeBocuf, Lamb, Leiby & MacRae