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ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE OF REGULATORY OPERATIONS
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J. G. Keppler, Chief, Reactor Testing & Operations Branch
Directorate of Regulatory Operations, HQ

RO INQUIRY REPORT NO. 50-220/73-01Q
NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION
NINE MILE POINT 1

The subject inquiry report is being forwarded for information and possible action in that this matter may be a generic problem with procedures at other BWR reactors.

The NMP Technical Specification limits the number of inoperable control rods to six, however, a review of a recently revised (August 1972) operating procedure permitted continued reactor operation for one hour with an inoperable control rod drive hydraulic system.

The procedure, OP-5, stated, "If the ability to drive all rods has been lost, such as loss of the complete hydraulic system for a period of one hour, the reactor should be scrammed."

It was our interpretation of the NMP procedure (and the licensee concurred) that the reactor could be operated using the above procedure for at least one hour without an operative control rod drive system. Our position to the licensee was that the procedure as written was contrary to the intent of the Technical Specifications. The licensee agreed to effect a temporary procedure change to exclude operation of the reactor when a complete loss of the hydraulic system occurred or when a loss of more than six control rods (per the Technical Specifications) occurred.

We are pursuing this matter at our other BWRs and at the time of this memo, have identified weaknesses in other procedures, however, no problem identical to the one at NMP.

D. L. Capton
D. L. Capton
Senior Reactor Inspector
Facility Operations Branch

Enclosure:
Subject Inquiry Report

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