

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

NIAGARA  MOHAWK

300 ERIE BOULEVARD WEST
SYRACUSE, N.Y. 13202

September 7, 1973



Mr. Donald J. Skovholt
Assistant Director for Reactor Operations
Division of Reactor Licensing
United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Re: Provisional Operating License: DPR-17
Docket No.: 50-220

Dear Mr. Skovholt:

Pursuant to your request, we are reporting as an abnormal occurrence the loss of the stack gas monitors for a period of approximately 2 hours on June 26, 1973.

The plant was starting up following the Spring refueling outage with the reactor at approximately 1460 MWt. Reactor output was being increased slowly in an attempt to precondition the fuel assemblies and maintain the future stack gas release rate at as low a value as possible. Stack gas activity at this time was approximately 8500 $\mu\text{Ci}/\text{sec}$ well within all limits. There are two levels of continuous monitoring of the radioactivity level of the effluent gases removed from the main condenser by the steam jet air-ejector system. The Off-gas monitors which were continually monitoring the radioactivity level of the gaseous effluent which is eventually released to the stack, are located prior to the holdup pipe and the stack. Using information from the off-gas monitors the stack release rate can be determined. The stack gas monitors continuously monitor the activity of the gas released thru the stack. These monitors see the radioactivity level of the same gas as the off gas monitors after a holdup of minutes and dilution of the gas with ventilation air from the plant.

At 1745 hours #12 stack sample pump tripped and could not be restarted. (Subsequent investigation revealed a bound motor). #11 stack sample pump was out of service and not piped-up at this time, awaiting an oil reservoir jar. The reservoir jar was leaking and although the pump would operate it would require constant monitor of the oil level. #11 stack sample pump was piped up and placed in service at 2000 hours.

8302280065 730907
PDR ADOCK 05000220
S PDR

543
COPY SENT REGION

Mr. Donald J. Skovholt
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

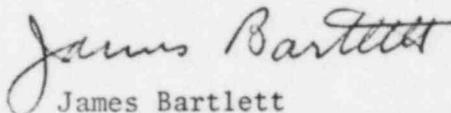
September 7, 1973

During the period of time the stack gas monitors were out of service the off gas monitors showed only a variation of 4 Mr/hr. It is important to note that the stack gas monitors provide only an alarm function. The off gas monitors which were functioning normally, provide for automatic closure of the isolation valve in the off gas line at the maximum release rate and their operation is the limiting condition for operation. The information from the stack gas monitoring system is used in preparation of plant radioactive effluent reports and demonstrating compliance with maximum release rates.

Before the stack release rate would have reached a point where the health and safety of the general public would have been endangered, the off gas monitors would have isolated the off gas line to the stack.

To prevent similar future occurrences of this event a third sampling pump will be used as a spare and employed whenever one of the two normal sample pumps are out of service.

Very truly yours,



James Bartlett
Executive Vice President
Operations and Engineering

JB:cm