

RO INQUIRY REPORT NO. 50-220/72-08

Subject: Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

Nine Mile Point 1-BWR

License No.: DPR-17

Title: Fire Insulation on Supply Line to Feewater Pump

Prepared by: R. T. Cantrell for
F. S. Cantrell, Reactor Inspector

9/20/72
Date

A. Date and Manner AEC was Informed

September 14, 1972 by telephone call from Mr. Roland Smith, Maintenance Supervisor.

B. Description of Particular Event or Circumstance

Mr. Smith stated that a smoldering insulation fire was found in the turbine building at 5:30 p.m. September 13, 1972. As a result of a leak in the oil supply line to the turbine driven feedwater pump, the insulation on the feedwater supply line beneath the pump became soaked with oil. The oil leak had been repaired during a shutdown, September 9-10, 1972. The fire was centered in the pipe sleeve in the concrete below the feedwater pump. Mr. Smith stated that the fire, the source of which was believed to be autoignition, did not pose a threat to the safe operation of the plant, or equipment in the vicinity of the fire. Operation of the plant continued throughout the occurrence.

C. Action by Licensee

1. A maintenance crew was assembled and, using respiratory protection, the insulation was dug out of the pipe sleeve from below. The oil soaked insulation burst into flames as it was exposed to the oxygen in the air; however, personnel were standing by with fire extinguishers to extinguish the fire as the insulation was removed. Approximately 5 feet of insulation was removed.

2. Mr. Smith stated that the only threat to equipment was a cable tray located approximately 6 feet west of the water pipe and that this was only a threat during the period while insulation was being removed.
3. A visual inspection of the carbon steel piping indicated no damage.
4. The oil on the insulation was determined to be Mobil DTE-797 turbine oil with a minimum flash point of 405°F. Mr. Smith stated that the vendor would be contacted to determine how autoignition could occur with temperatures in the vicinity of 350°F.
5. Mr. Smith stated that NMP did not plan to make a separate report of this event; however, the details would be covered in the semi annual report of operation.

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