

CO Inquiry Report No. 50-220/71-07

Subject: Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

License No.: DPR-17

Facility: Nine Mile Point 1 - BWR

Title: Premature Opening of Relief Valves Following a Reactor Scram

Prepared by: F. S. Cantrell, Jr., Reactor Inspector

1/5/72
Date

A. Date & Manner AEC was Informed:

By telephone call from Mr. P. A. Burt, Station Superintendent, on January 3, 1972. Additional information was provided in phone conversations with Mr. Burt on January 4 and 5, 1972.

B. Description of Particular Event or Circumstance:

While performing a routine monthly surveillance test on the reactor level instrumentation on December 31, 1971, the mechanic's wrench slipped and hit a companion instrument, apparently causing coincident high level signals that tripped the turbine. The turbine anticipatory trip initiated a reactor scram. Reactor pressure increased to 1065 psi at +3 seconds, decayed to 850 psi at +32 seconds, and increased to 1115 psi at +120 seconds. Reactor level decreased to -2.8' at +11 seconds (0 in normal level). The feed water controller increased makeup flow and the level increased to +3' (full scale on the recorder) at +63 seconds. The high reactor level initiated closure of the main steam isolation valves. At this point two of the electromatic releif valves (RV) relieved to the torus for 4 seconds. The RV are set to relieve between 1135 and 1145 psi.

C. Action by Licensee:

A calibration check of the feedwater controls did not identify any reason for overflowing the system. The Station Operating Review Committee reviewed this occurrence and approved the return to power. The plant was brought back on line at 11:55 pm on December 31, 1971. The licensee is making a detailed analysis to determine the significance of this event