

March 27, 1975

Director of Regulatory Operations
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Docket No. 50-220

Gentlepersons:

It has come to my attention, through Dan Greene of Niagara Mohawk and Sue Reinert of Ecology Action of Oswego, that Nine Mile Point 1 may be operating in an unsafe condition. I am a friend of several members of Ecology Action, and have often worked with them, so this letter may be considered a friendly letter on their behalf.

As I understand the situation, NMP 1 went on-line December, 1969, and has never shipped any of its discharged spent fuel elements off-site. I know that Nuclear Fuel Services has not received discharged fuel elements from NMP 1, and the Barnwell fuel receiving area cannot be licensed to receive fuel elements until there is a safety hearing. Thus, the discharged fuel must be stored in the NMP 1 storage pool. It is my understanding that the storage pool is so full that the entire core cannot be placed there, without removing control rods from the pool. These additional manipulations with the control rods would definitely appear to be undesirable, if not unsafe, if it were necessary to remove the fuel from the reactor rapidly.

The present fuel rods have been in the reactor a year and a half, the latest batch, and should be highly radioactive. I assume that other of the fuel elements in the present core have been there much longer. What seems likely is that the company is delaying a shut-down until the Barnwell facility can accommodate the fuel elements, but that this delay may be leading to an unsafe situation in that the likelihood for fuel cladding failure will increase with greater reactor exposure. It appears that a balance is being made between economics and safety.

Based on the above, I am requesting an inspection of the NMP 1 facility to determine whether the plant is operating in a safe condition. I request an answer to this letter which can also address the following questions:

- 1) What is the capacity of the NMP 1 storage pool?
- 2) What is the storage date, burn-up, and quantity of each batch of irradiated fuel discharged to the storage pool?
- 3) What is the cooling capacity of the storage pool?
- 4) What is the burn-up and quantity of the irradiated fuel elements presently in the reactor core?
- 5) What is the total heat output of all, storage pool plus reac-

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tor, fuel elements and control rods, in a non-critical array?

6) What percentage of the fuel elements are damaged?

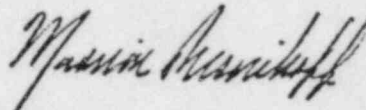
7) What is the radioactivity level of the coolant water presently in the reactor?

8) When was the last check for cracks in the cooling pipes, including the ECCS pipes?

I have taken the liberty of mailing a copy of this letter to the two New York Senators, and the New York State Office of the Attorney General. Thank you for a timely response.

cc: D. Greene
S. Reinert
✓ J. Buckley
J. Javits
L. Lefkowitz

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Marvin Resnikoff
174 West Ave.
Buffalo, N.Y. 14201

NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION

NIAGARA  MOHAWK

300 ERIE BOULEVARD WEST
SYRACUSE, N. Y. 13202

April 2, 1975

Dr. Marvin Resnikoff
174 West Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14201

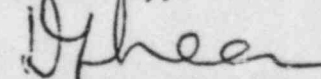
Dear Dr. Resnikoff:

I have received a copy of your March 27 letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which begins with a statement "it has come to my attention, through Dan Greene (sic) of Niagara Mohawk and Sue Reinert of Ecology Action of Oswego, that Nine Mile Point 1 may be operating in an unsafe condition." The clear implication of this statement is that I have made allegations to you with respect to the safety of our Nine Mile Point facility. Nothing could be further from the truth, as you well know. You have never contacted me directly on this matter, and frankly, I resent the use of my name in this context.

The interpretation of the spent fuel situation at Nine Mile Point with respect to safety is strictly your own. We firmly believe that the ability of the reactor vessel to keep the existing inventory of fuel cool under virtually all operating conditions maintains required levels of safety. A situation which might warrant removal of the core for inspection purposes or corrective maintenance, would allow time to consider various storage options. As you should know, various redundant systems are installed to maintain the core in a safe shutdown condition indefinitely.

In short, your interpretation of the spent fuel situation with respect to safety is in error.

Sincerely,



Daniel D. Green
Manager - Corporate Information

DDG/ch

cc: S. Reinert
J. Buckley
J. Javits
L. Lefkowitz
M. DeMichele
Nuclear Regulatory Commission ✓

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