

UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

December 18, 1973

Docket No. 50-220

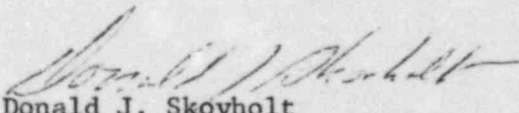
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation  
ATTN: Mr. Rudolph R. Schneider  
Vice President - Electric Operations  
300 Erie Boulevard West  
Syracuse, New York 13202

Gentlemen:

Your letters dated November 28 and December 3, 1973, reported, as abnormal occurrences, the failures of eleven (11) and fifteen (15), respectively, control rods to insert to position 00 following a reactor scram. The control rods inserted to position 02 (six inches from full insertion) with the scram and were subsequently inserted to position 00 using normal control rod drive system pressure under manual control. You indicate in both reports that corrective action involving overhaul of the control rods will be done during the spring 1974 refueling outage.

Discussions regarding the occurrences have been held by telephone between T. J. Perkins of your staff and D. L. Ziemann and C. J. DeBevec of my staff. Additional clarifying information is necessary to describe the apparent cause of these occurrences as regards deterioration of the stop piston seals and the details of your review and analysis on which you concluded that the event does not significantly affect safety of operation at Nine Mile Point Unit 1. In our discussions, Mr. T. J. Perkins indicated a more complete report would be provided within ten days; this letter is to confirm that commitment.

Sincerely,

  
Donald J. Skovholt  
Assistant Director for  
Operating Reactors  
Directorate of Licensing

cc: See next page

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*Handwritten: 50-220*  
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December 13, 1973

cc: J. Bruce MacDonald, Esquire  
Deputy Commissioner and Counsel  
New York State Department of  
Commerce and Counsel to the  
Atomic Energy Council  
99 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12210

Arvin E. Upton, Esquire  
LeBoeuf, Lamb, Leiby & MacRae  
1757 N Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dr. William Seymour - w/cy of NMP ltrs dtd 11/28 & 12/3/73  
Staff Coordinator  
New York State Atomic Energy Council  
New York State Department of Commerce  
112 State Street  
Albany, New York 12207

Oswego City Library  
120 E. Second Street  
Oswego, New York 13126