

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION I

Report No. 50-220/84-23

Docket No. 50-220

License No. DPR-63

Priority --

Category C

Licensee: Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation  
300 Erie Boulevard West  
Syracuse, New York 13202

Facility Name: Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 1

Inspection At: Lycoming, New York

Inspection Conducted: October 30 - November 1, 1984

Inspectors:

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R. H. Smith, Team Leader,  
Emergency Preparedness Specialist

2/21/85  
date

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2/25/85  
date

Inspection Summary: Inspection on October 30-November 1, 1984 (Report No. 50-220/84-23)

Areas Inspected: Routine, announced emergency preparedness inspection and observation of the licensee's annual emergency small-scale exercise performed on October 31, 1984. The inspection involved 166 inspector hours by a team of seven NRC Region I and NRC contractor personnel.

Results: No violations were identified. The licensee's emergency response actions for this exercise scenario were adequate to provide protective measures for the health and safety of the public.

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## DETAILS

### 1. Persons Contacted

The following licensee representatives attended the exit meeting on November 1, 1984:

J. Beratta, Assistant Manager, Nuclear Security  
C. Boniti, Training Instructor, Nuclear Security  
R. Burtch, Jr., Director, Nuclear Information Services  
T. Chwalek, Emergency Coordinator  
W. Drews, Technical Superintendent  
M. Hedrick, Supervisor, Training  
S. Karpen, Health Physicist  
E. Leach, Superintendent, Chemical/Radiation Management  
J. Pavel, Assistant Superintendent, Training  
T. Peeling, Assistant Supervisor, Training  
T. Roman, Station Superintendent  
P. Volza, Supervisor, Radiological Support

The team observed and interviewed several licensee emergency response personnel, controllers, and observers as they performed their assigned functions during the exercise.

### 2. Emergency Exercise

The Nine Mile Point small scale exercise was conducted on October 31, 1984, from 6:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

#### a. Pre-Exercise Activities

Prior to the emergency exercise, NRC Region I representatives had telephone discussions with licensee representatives to review the scope and content of the exercise scenario.

In addition, NRC team observers attended a licensee briefing for licensee controllers and observers on October 30, 1984, and participated in the discussion of emergency response actions expected during the various phases of the scenario. The licensee specified the emergency response activities that would be simulated and also that controllers would intercede in activities to prevent disturbing normal plant operations.

The exercise scenario included the following events:

- Reactor coolant leak;
- Loss of offsite power;

- Inoperable valves for a Recirculation Pump;
- Loss of AC power;
- Reactor core degradation;
- Unmonitored release of radioactivity; and
- Implementation of the Recovery Organization.

The above events caused the activation of the licensee's emergency facilities and also permitted the State and local government agencies to exercise their Emergency Plans.

b. Activities Observed

During the conduct of the licensee's exercise, NRC team members made detailed observations of the activation and augmentation of the emergency organization; activation of emergency response facilities; and actions of emergency response personnel during the operation of the emergency response facilities. The following activities were observed:

- Detection, classification, and assessment of the scenario events;
- Direction and coordination of the emergency response;
- Notification of licensee personnel and offsite agencies of pertinent information;
- Assembly and accountability of personnel;
- Assessment and projection of radiological (dose) data and consideration of protective actions;
- Provisions for in-plant radiation protection;
- Performance of offsite, onsite, and inplant radiological surveys;
- Maintenance of site security and access control;
- Performance of technical support;
- Performance of repair and corrective actions;
- Communications/information flow, and recordkeeping; and
- Management of Recovery Operations

c. Exercise Observations

The NRC team noted that the licensee's activation and augmentation of the emergency organization; activation of the emergency response facilities; and actions and use of the facilities were generally consistent with their emergency response plan and implementing procedures. The team also noted the following actions of the licensee's emergency response organization that were indicative of their ability to cope with abnormal plant conditions:

- Emergency response personnel were knowledgeable in their assignments and the emergency procedures in general, and demonstrated that they were competent in performing their assigned function.
- In general, there was evidence of active record keeping in the emergency facilities.
- Habitability surveys were performed in emergency facilities in a thorough and timely manner.
- Access to the emergency facilities was controlled and accountability was maintained within the facilities.
- In general, status boards were maintained with current information and briefings were timely.
- Communications via the P.A. system, telephones and radios were accomplished without problems.
- One field team did an excellent job of tracking the plume as they were able to traverse the plume and find the centerline.

In addition, the NRC team noted that all areas for licensee improvement identified at the conclusion of the previous exercise (Inspection No. 50-220/83-22) either did not occur or had been corrected.

d. Open Items

The NRC team findings in areas for licensee improvement were as follows (the licensee also identified several of these areas in their critique of the exercise):

- (Open) 50-220/84-23-01: Provide a communicator for the Control Room telephones during the early phases of the emergency.
- (Open) 50-220/84-23-02: Clarify the responsibilities of the Shift Technical Advisor during emergencies to improve effectiveness.
- (Open) 50-220/84-23-03: Establish guidelines on the use of the Emergency Ventilation System.

- (Open) 50-220/84-23-04: Status boards in the TSC and the EOF did not indicate a reason for each of the emergency classifications.
- (Open) 50-220/84-23-05: Accountability of personnel following the evacuation was not performed within approximately 30 minutes.
- (Open) 50-220/84-23-06): Press releases did not contain the reason for each change in the emergency classification.

e. Exercise Critique

The NRC team attended the licensee's post-exercise critique on November 1, 1984, during which the Exercise Controllers discussed their observations of the exercise. The licensee participants highlighted both areas for improvement which the licensee indicated would be evaluated and appropriate action taken and areas in which improvements have been made. The significant areas were identified and the critique appeared to adequately cover the exercise.

3. Exit Meeting and NRC Critique

Following the licensee's self critique, the NRC team met with the licensee representatives listed in Section 1. The team leader summarized the observations made during the exercise.

The licensee was informed that no violations were observed and although there were areas identified for improvement, the NRC team determined that within the scope and limitations of the scenario, the licensee's performance demonstrated that they could implement their Emergency Plan and Emergency Plan Implementing Procedures in a manner which would adequately provide for the health and safety of the public.

Licensee management acknowledged the findings and indicated that appropriate action would be taken regarding the identified improvement areas.

At no time during this inspection was written material provided to the licensee by the inspectors.