



December 17, 1999
NMP1L 1493

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

RE: Nine Mile Point Unit 1
Docket No. 50-220
DPR-63

Subject: Supplement to the Special Report, dated October 29, 1999

Gentlemen:

In accordance with Nine Mile Point Unit 1 (NMP1) Technical Specification Table 3.6.11-1, "Accident Monitoring Instrumentation," Action Statement 4.a, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (NMPC) submitted Special Report dated October 29, 1999, concerning the inoperability of the #11 Containment Hydrogen Monitoring System (CMS). At the time of that report, the cause of the failure of the bypass pump had not been determined. This supplement describes that cause and the associated corrective actions.

Description of Event

On October 16, 1999, at 1628, while operators were commencing control rod withdrawal with the reactor mode switch in the "STARTUP" position, the #11 CMS was out of service. The system was removed from service on October 10, 1999 to perform corrective maintenance. Technical Specification 3.6.11 requires the system to be operable with the reactor mode switch in the "STARTUP" or "RUN" position and either the reactor is critical or criticality is possible due to control rod withdrawal. Once plant startup commenced, the operators entered the appropriate Technical Specification action statement. In accordance with Technical Specification 3.6.11, the #12 CMS was operable.

On October 10, 1999, the #11 CMS bypass pump began making excessive noise. The bypass pump was replaced and returned to an operable status on November 7, 1999. The subsequent troubleshooting activities determined that the noise was a result of degraded bearings. Discussions with the pump manufacturer revealed that the incorrect type bearings were installed in the pump.

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A similar event occurred on June 21, 1999, as described in the Special Reports dated July 2, 1999, and September 30, 1999. During this time frame, NMPC determined that the #11 CMS sample pump bearings were degraded, and that the bearings, as procured, were not of the correct type according to the manufacturer. The manufacturer further stated that they never installed that type of bearings in their pumps. Research into the sample pump history revealed that two pumps were procured from another utility. Both pumps were installed on the #11 CMS as the sample and bypass pumps. As part of the corrective actions, Work Order 99-04831 was written, in part, to replace the #11 CMS bypass pump because of the potential for it to have the wrong type of bearings installed. The work order was scheduled to be performed once the #12 CMS was returned to service from preventive maintenance. However, on October 10, 1999, with #12 CMS still out of service, the #11 CMS bypass pump began making excessive noise and was removed from service.

Cause of Event

The excessive noise from the bypass pump was a result of degraded bearings in the pump. According to the manufacturer, the bearings found installed in the bypass and sample pumps were not the correct type bearings. The pumps were purchased from another utility with the bearings already installed.

Corrective Action

1. Work Order 99-04831-00, which included replacing the bypass pump, was completed and the #11 Containment Hydrogen Monitoring System was tested satisfactorily.
2. As an additional measure, a special handling note was added to the pump symbol number file to require procurement engineering to examine similar type pumps upon receipt for the correct bearings.

Very truly yours,



Lawrence A. Hopkins
Plant Manager - NMP1

LAH/CES/jb

xc: Mr. H. J. Miller, Regional Administrator, Region I
Mr. G. K. Hunegs, NRC Senior Resident Inspector
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