

DEC 10 1976

Docket No. 50-220

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation
ATTN: Mr. Gerald K. Rhode
Vice President - Engineering
300 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, New York 13202

Gentlemen:

RE: NINE MILE POINT NUCLEAR STATION UNIT NO. 1

The Regulatory Staff is currently pursuing with the General Electric Company a program to better understand recent data which indicates that Core Spray distribution, under accident conditions, could be negatively affected by the presence of a steam environment, pressure differential across the spray area and updraft. The presence of steam can narrow (contract) the cone solid angle for certain type nozzles; thus, the spray flow in certain bundles may be lower than previously assumed. This phenomenon could occur in both single nozzles and ring sparger systems. Available data are summarized in the enclosed Meeting Minutes.

We are concerned that this effect has not been considered in the spray coefficients used as input to the non-jet pump ECCS analysis for the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station Unit No. 1 Plant. In light of the recent data that has become available to the General Electric Company regarding effects on spray distribution due to steam environment, pressure, and updraft, and considering the minimum spray flow present in General Electric Company Topical Report APED-4927 and APED-4928 tests (or any other test data you choose to reference in support of your assumed spray cooling coefficients), we request that you provide justification for your assumed spray cooling coefficients. Further, we request that you inform us, within 30 days from the receipt of this letter, of your schedule for a complete response, including description of any tests you might propose to obtain data applicable to your plant.

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If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter, please contact us.

Sincerely,

George Lear, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #3
Division of Operating Reactors

Enclosure:
Meeting Minutes

cc: Arvin E. Upton, Esquire
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Mr. Eugene G. Saloga, Applicant Coordinator
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