

Docket No. 50-220

FEB 1 7 1976

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 UNIT 1

As you undoubtedly know, the current shortage of offsite fuel storage space and fuel reprocessing capability has curtailed the ability of some operating reactor facilities to ship spent fuel to an offsite location. This situation will probably continue to exist for several more years. Consequently, spent fuel is accumulating in onsite spent fuel storage pools; and as the available onsite storage space is used up, more facilities will not have adequate capacity to discharge a full reactor core to the storage pool.

The capability to discharge a full core from the reactor vessel to the storage pool is considered to be an operational consideration rather than a safety problem. However, it should be noted that in some facilities, complete core unloading may be necessary to perform some of the required reactor coolant system inservice inspections. Thus, the inability to discharge a full core could preclude compliance with these inspection requirements and continued operation.

We suggest that you review the inservice inspection requirements in the NRC regulations and your Technical Specifications to determine whether they require discharging fuel, and review your schedule for performing these inspections in view of your projected fuel storage capability. If you find that your current inservice inspection schedules cannot be accommodated within your projected ability to discharge fuel, you should consider advancing your inspection schedules accordingly or taking other action to alleviate the problem.

Sincerely,



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

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[The body of the document contains several paragraphs of text that are extremely faint and illegible due to the quality of the scan. The text appears to be organized into a structured format, possibly a list or a series of paragraphs, but the specific content cannot be discerned.]

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation

FEB 17 1976

cc:

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