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 FACIL: 50-228 Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 1, Niagara Powe 05000220  
50-410 Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Unit 2, Niagara Moha 05000410  
 AUTH. NAME: WILKINSON, T.A. AUTHOR AFFILIATION: Army, Dept. of, Corps of Engineers  
 RECIP. NAME: MCMULLEN, R. RECIPIENT AFFILIATION: Geosciences Branch

SUBJECT: Responds to 800215 & 0509 requests for review of plant-geotechnical investigations. Util should evaluate safety implications of crack in reactor bldg north wall.

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 TITLE: Dual Review Responsibility (DOR & DPM)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
BUFFALO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
1776 NIAGARA STREET  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14207

NCBED-DF

30 May 1980

Mr. Richard McMullen  
Geology and Seismology Section  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Dick:

Reference your transmittal dated 15 February 1980, and our verbal conversation on 9 May 1980, requesting our review of geotechnical investigations performed at Niagara Mohawk's Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2.

We have reviewed Niagara Mohawk's responses to several of the questions posed to them in your memorandum dated 11 May 1979. As discussed with you previously, at the present time we will only be providing comments regarding Niagara Mohawk's response to Question 361.22. Since many of the questions regarding the investigation performed at Unit 2 are interrelated, I would prefer to withhold commenting on any specific response until all questions have been addressed by Niagara Mohawk.

Regarding the response to Question 361.22, it appears that the Utility has altered its position on the postulated cause for the crack in the north wall of the Unit 1 Reactor Building. At the meeting held on 24 April 1977, Niagara Mohawk indicated that the crack was suspected to be caused by rock squeeze of excavation walls. In their response to Question 361.22, Niagara Mohawk now states that the cause of the crack has not been determined. The 3-foot wide slot between the rock and substructure walls would seem to preclude wall convergence from horizontal rock squeeze as a likely cause for cracking. However, as stated in the response, small movements of the foundation rock supporting the adjoining Screenwell Building's west wall, could produce sufficient load to cause cracking in the Reactor Building wall. Expansion of concrete comprising the west wall of the Screenwell Building was mentioned as another possible cause.

It is my opinion that the Utility should be required to evaluate the significance of the crack in the Unit 1 Reactor Building wall with respect to the safe operation of the plant. Further, they should undertake studies, beyond the simple monitoring of physical changes of the crack, in order to determine if possible its exact cause. The need for possible remedial treatment at

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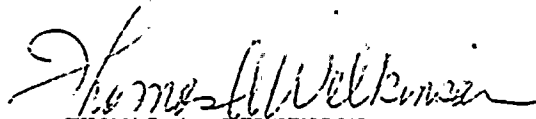
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Mr. Richard Mc Mullen

Unit 1 and the need for design and construction modification at Unit 2 should be thoroughly addressed by the Utility.

We look forward to receiving a copy of Niagara Mohawk's responses to the balance of the questions relating to the Unit 2 geologic investigation.

Sincerely,

  
THOMAS A. WILKINSON  
District Geologist



50-220/410

## NRC DISTRIBUTION FOR PART 50 DOCKET MATERIAL

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TO:

Mr. J. M. Toennies  
Niagara Mohawk Pwr Corp  
Syracuse, N.Y.

FROM:

Dept of the Army  
Buffalo, N.Y. 14207  
Paul F. Gaume

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DESCRIPTION

ENCLOSURE Forwarding Dept of the Army's permit allowing Applicant to construct a submerged intake structure and a submerged discharge structure connected to shore by tunnel No 1, and a submerged intake structure connected to shore No 2 in Lake Ontario at Subject Facility, Oswego County, N.Y.

PLANT NAME : NINE MILE POINT UNITS 1 & 2  
jcm 06/07/78

1 ENCL

## SAFETY

## FOR ACTION/INFORMATION

## ENVIRONMENTAL

ASSIGNED AD:

V. MOORE (LTR)

BRANCH CHIEF:

BRANCH CHIEF: REGAN

PROJECT MANAGER:

PROJECT MANAGER: NORRIS

LIC. ASST:

LIC. ASST: M. DUNCAN

B. HARLESS

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